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Jordan Times, Monday, May 27, 1996

Influential Sudan leader supports recent peace deal

KHARTOUM (R) — A former Sudanese vice-president from the south has returned home to back a peace deal between the government and two southern rebel groups.

Joseph Lagu, who was deputy to President Jaafar Numeiri in the 1970s and head of the government in southern Sudan, told Reuters on Saturday that the government should encourage other rebel and opposition groups to join the peace process.

The mainstream rebel group, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), has denounced the government's April 10 agreement with the Southern Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) of Riek Machar and an SPLA splinter group led by Carahino Kuanyin Bol. Officials in Khartoum have had a hard time selling the agreement — known as the political charter — to southern Sudanese, many of whom view it with reservations. Mr. Lagu's support is a major coup for the government.

"I am supportive of any move that brings people closer together. I have already declared my support for the charter. I consider it a sign of some good beginning and my coming to Sudan is to reinforce that," said Mr. Lagu, who returned to Sudan last week after almost three years abroad.

Mr. Lagu urged the government to begin peace talks with other rebel groups and suggested a peace conference in Nairobi. "I have told all those I have met in the government that they have to take some practical steps towards starting peace talks. I said they have to do everything possible that will

entice the other southern Sudanese factions, particularly the faction led by John Garang to join the peace process," he said.

"The practical step to take is to ask the chairman of IGAD (Inter-Governmental Authority on Development), to whom the resolution of the Sudan problem is entrusted, to call a peace conference, possibly in Nairobi."

"He is also to persuade the other factions that are still outside the peace process to join in," Mr. Lagu said.

The regional grouping IGAD is chaired by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi and includes Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea, which all have strained relations with Sudan and are unlikely to cooperate in efforts to bring peace to Sudan through dialogue.

Mr. Lagu, a 65-year-old former lieutenant general in the Sudanese army, still commands some support in the war-torn south, especially in his home state of Equatoria.

Mr. Lagu has also called for the inclusion of northern opposition groups in the peace process.

"I humbly advised those I have met in the government, that whatever discussions they are carrying out with the southern groups, they should inform those opposed to them in the north, so that they would honour if they come to power. Even if they don't come to power, they will work to destroy it," he warned.

Mr. Lagu said he had noticed a willingness amongst the northern opposition to talk to the government of President Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

Lebanese minister invites Aoun to return from exile

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's defense minister has invited former Prime Minister Michel Aoun to return from exile in France where Mr. Aoun says he is living in slavish conditions.

The pro-Syrian minister, Mohsen Dalloul, said Mr. Aoun could come back to engage in politics. "Lebanon is in great need of its people. Let them come home and engage in political activity and let the opposition express itself in Lebanon," Mr. Dalloul said, according to the official Lebanese news agency.

Mr. Aoun, a former general, was prime minister of a Christian military government from 1982 to 1990 in Lebanon in the closing days of its 15-year civil war. He fought to eject the 35,000 Syrian troops stationed in the country before being ousted in October 1990, and has lived in exile in France since fleeing

Lebanon in August 1991. At that time, Lebanon told Mr. Aoun he must remain in exile for five years.

Mr. Aoun complained this week that French police had physically prevented him from leaving his home near Paris to travel to Strasbourg to address the European Parliament.

French authorities justified this arguing that Mr. Aoun had been granted asylum on condition that he remain politically inactive and not make public appearances.

Mr. Aoun told an Arabic newspaper on Friday that his living conditions in France were slavish.

"I prefer freedom, even if I am going to be in danger, and I refuse protection that is paramount to slavery," Mr. Aoun was quoted as saying in the London-based daily Al Hayat.

Arafat prefers Peres in Israeli election

By Wafa Amr
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has made clear which candidate he prefers in Israel's election on Wednesday — his peace partner, Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"We don't interfere in Israeli internal affairs, but we definitely support the peace camp," Mr. Arafat said in an interview with Egyptian television on Saturday.

"Without a doubt, any change that is not in the interest of the peace camp will directly affect not only peace on the Palestinian track, but also all other Arab tracks," he said.

Mr. Peres's centre-left coalition is known in Israel as the peace camp. The Likud party and right-wing allies of his hardline challenger Benjamin Netanyahu refer to themselves as the nationalist camp.

"The Palestinian leadership is following the Israeli election anxiously because its outcome will lead to a very critical point," said Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) negotiator Hassan Asfour.

"The election results will lead to either continuation of the peace process, or a freeze... That would mean Arab-Israeli confrontation and explosion in the whole area," he told Reuters.

PLO officials believe that Mr. Arafat's hopes of establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be dashed if Mr. Netanyahu came to power.

Mr. Peres's Labour Party, which initiated peace moves with the PLO and signed a landmark self-rule deal in



Young supporters of Premier Shimon Peres gather Sunday across the street from the television studios where he and opposition Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu were taping an election debate and shout their support for Mr. Peres' peace platform (Reuters photo)

1993, has dropped its official opposition to a Palestinian state.

The Peres government earlier this month took another step towards a permanent peace settlement with the PLO when it began so-called final status talks, although concrete negotiations will start only after the election.

PLO officials said they expected to conclude the talks in three years, after which they hope to establish an independent state.

Mr. Netanyahu rules out a Palestinian state, offering limited autonomy instead — with Israel maintaining over-

all responsibility for security in self-rule areas.

He has also expressed reluctance to meet Mr. Arafat, saying only that he would consider face-to-face talks.

"With Mr. Peres we could have coexistence without Israeli control, but with Likud, our lives would be fully controlled by Israel," a PLO official said.

"We would be tied to a rope around our necks and no matter how far we went, Likud would pull U.S. back," he said.

PLO officials and analysts said that Mr. Arafat would

also lose credibility with his own people should Mr. Netanyahu be elected.

"Arafat and the peace process are linked. Under Likud, it would be difficult for Arafat and his Palestinian Authority to maintain credibility and legitimacy," said political analyst Khalil Al Shogqi.

"Arafat would have no choice but to accept unwillingly what Likud offered him," Mr. Shogqi told Reuters.

One PLO official said: "Everything in our lives hinges on elections. We hope the closure will be lifted after elections. We hope Israeli troops will redeploy from Hebron after elections, and so on."

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip following suicide bomb attacks by Muslim militants in February and March which killed 59 people. It also postponed a partial pullout from Hebron, a West Bank town where some 400 settlers live among more than 100,000 Palestinians.

Although most PLO officials back Mr. Peres, they complain that his government has hurt him politically among Palestinians by pressing him to crack down on the militant group Hamas.

The PLO also complains that the closure has suffocated the Palestinian economy and increased frustration among the people.

Mr. Arafat's authority has pressed Hamas to halt attacks before the election to give Mr. Peres a better chance to remain in power.

The group's spokesman in Gaza, Mahmoud Zahhar, has appealed to Hamas's military wing to refrain from attacks before the ballot.

Iranian parliament probes central bank mismanagement

TEHRAN (R) — A parliamentary body investigating Iran's central bank has charged it with mismanaging the country's finances by allowing overspending, resulting in a foreign debt of \$43 billion in 1995.

The committee, in a report published in newspapers on Sunday, said the bank authorised foreign currency expenditures of \$99.7 billion in a four-year period ending in March 1993, on an income of \$62.3 billion.

The report said the bank failed to follow budgetary directives, allowing Iran's foreign debt to rise to more than \$37 billion at the end of the four-year shopping spree.

It said the debt rose to \$43 billion in March 1995 and blasted bank officials for denying Iran's repayment problems in media interviews, the daily Jomhuri Eslami reported.

Another committee presented a highly critical report about Iran's largest state-affiliated economic conglomerate in the final days of the outgoing parliament which held its last session on Sunday. The

new parliament will convene on Saturday.

The report presented a long list of alleged financial irregularities at the Bonyad-e Mostazafan va Janbazan (Foundation for the deprived and the war disabled) which controls more than 700 factories, firms and hotels.

It charged the foundation with selling large numbers of properties to its own officials or their relatives at radically discounted prices, running its firms inefficiently and failing to provide adequate services to the disabled of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The report was the latest public criticism of the foundation, headed by former Revolutionary Guards officer Mohsen Rafiqdoust who was accused last year of being involved in a big bank fraud for which his brother was jailed for life. He denied the allegations.

The foundation was formed after the 1979 Islamic revolution with the task of providing help for the poor using properties seized from the rich and the powerful of the old regime.

Iraq charges five for smuggling antiquities

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Five people have been charged with trying to smuggle statues of Assyrian gods and kings as well as other thousands of year old Iraqi antiquities to foreign markets, the authorities said.

The five were shown on state-television late Saturday along with the stone and bronze statues as well as vases and seals which they confessed to having tried to smuggle into Jordan or through the Kurdish north.

One group was made up of a 53-year-old taxi driver, a 36-year-old antique dealer, and an unemployed woman married to a Jordanian, while the other was made up of an Amman-based trader, Jabbar Sayad, and a 29-year-old worker.

Mr. Sayad confessed that their accomplices shipped the antiquities through Kurdish-held northern Iraq, which borders Turkey and Iran.

Mr. Sayad said he was arrested at the Jordan-Iraq border when customs officers discovered a "piece of leather bearing Hebrew inscriptions."

He did not say if these

were fragments of Jewish religious texts.

It was the first time that state television showed antiquities smugglers.

Since Iraqi troops were driven from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war, Iraqi authorities have deployed efforts to stop antiquities smuggling and asked international organisations to try to recover stolen items.

They have also asked Iraqis to hand over any ancient artefacts which they have, in return for a reward.

Baghdad accused U.S. troops during the Gulf war of stealing items from Ur, an area south of Baghdad where there are ruins from the Sumerian period, 2,500 years before Christ, and asked the U.N. to find them.

The statues displayed on the television were from the Assyrian period, an ancient kingdom of Mesopotamia which established an empire that stretched from Egypt to the Gulf, and peaked between 721 and 633 B.C.

Kuwait-Jordan ties move a step closer

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait took a major step towards renewing ties with Jordan when the emir sent King Hussein an Independence Day telegram, diplomats said Sunday.

One Western diplomat described the telegram from the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, as a "definite breakthrough in relations," while another said it was a "step forward in the normalisation process."

It was the first time the emir has sent a traditional telegram of congratulations to Jordan since relations were frozen after Kuwait accused Jordan of siding with Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Sheikh Jaber "sent a message of congratulations to King Hussein" to mark Jordan's Independence

Day, the local press said on Sunday, most of them publishing the short report on the second page.

Until recently, only the two crown princes exchanged official communications. But in February King Hussein and the emir exchanged messages during Kuwait's liberation day celebrations.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who has urged closer ties, told the Arabic daily Al Hayat on Thursday that Jordan would open an embassy in Kuwait soon.

Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, was a strong opponent of any rapprochement in the past, but has now moved towards renewing ties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court to rule on Geagea in July

BEIRUT (AFP) — A court will return its verdict on July 13 in the trial of former Warlord Samir Geagea, accused of planning a church bombing which killed 11 people, a judge ruled Saturday. On Friday prosecutors called for the death penalty to be passed on Mr. Geagea for the February 1994 bombing of a church north of Beirut. Two death sentences have already been passed on Mr. Geagea, both of which have been commuted to life imprisonment with hard labour, after he was found guilty of the murder of rival Christian leaders in separate trials. Mr. Geagea, head of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia during the 1975-1990 Lebanese civil war, is being tried by a special court to which there is no right of appeal. On Saturday, Mr. Geagea carried out his own defence at the end of the hearing saying that the trial had "been fabricated to hasten my end and that of the LF." Four others on trial with Mr. Geagea also face the death penalty.

Egyptian journalists plan strike

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian journalists will hold a symbolic five-minute strike on Monday as well as a three-hour sit-in at their union headquarters on the first anniversary of the adoption of tough press laws. Yehiya Qallash, secretary general of the journalists union, said in a statement that the union also called on other journalists bodies across the world to support their action decided at an emergency meeting on Tuesday. Under the law, adopted by parliament on May 27, 1995, journalists can face prison terms of up to 15 years for defamation as well as stiff fines. Amid protests at the law, President Hosni Mubarak set up a committee which a week ago submitted a new draft law reducing the maximum prison sentences for defamation to one or two years. The draft law now has to go through parliamentary procedures, but journalists are worried it could be left until after the summer recess. Under the current laws, 68 journalists, including five editors of opposition papers and 11 of government publications, have been charged with defamation. Five have already been sentenced to jail, but the terms have been suspended awaiting appeal, and a sixth has been fined.

Iran reports one-tonne drug seizure

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian authorities seized more than 1,100 kilograms of opium and morphine in southern Sistan-Baluchestan province in two operations, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Saturday. It said drug squads seized 423 kilograms of opium and arrested three Afghans in the provincial capital of Zahedan on Thursday. The same day, law enforcement agents seized 21 kilograms of morphine in Saravan, in the southeast of the province, and intercepted 72 sacks of opium weighing 663 kilograms on Friday, IRNA said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-10

PROGRAMME TIME

15:00 Bankers' (Arabic)

15:25 Richie Rich

16:00 Annals of the Mediterranean

17:00 News Flash

17:02 L'Ecole Des Fars

18:00 Magazine — Thalawa

19:00 News in French

19:15 Magazine — Cine Star Cin

19:30 News Headlines

19:45 The Nanny

20:00 The Banks of Jordan Pt. II

20:45 Rock Around The World

21:10 P.S. I Love U

21:50 100 Years of Capitalism in Korea

Pt. III

22:00 News in English

22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful

23:10 P.S. I Love U

23:59 Taurus Reine

PRAYER TIMES

06:56 Sunrise

08:28 Sunrise (Sustained) Doha

12:33 Dhuhr

16:13 Asr

19:37 Maghrib

21:09 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swedish Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church Tel.

632783

St. Joseph Church Tel. 824980

Latin Catholics Church Tel.

614191

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622566

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623441

Anglican Church Tel. 652526

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771531

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

77261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel.

625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

824328

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457

The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-Day Saints Tel. 829132

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675601

The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman

Tel. 811245

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614191

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions

with occasional rain and

moderate to active. In

Agaba, winds will be

moderate to active and

sea rough.

Min. Max. Temp.

Amman 15-27

Agaba 20-35

Dozets 14-30

Jordan Valley 19-34

Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 30, Agaba 37, Humudat

Temperatures: Amman 30 per cent.

Agaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hossain Mawani 281097

Dr. Afif Shukri 289863

Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195

Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq 782365

Ferdows pharmacy 782365

Al Asano pharmacy 827055

Naimiyah pharmacy 826772

Al Salam pharmacy 836730

Yasuni pharmacy 844948

Shimam pharmacy 837642

Naimiyah pharmacy 826772

Najih pharmacy 847622

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh 284841

Alyah pharmacy 1-1

ZARQA:

Dr. Hisham Al-Sayid 987012

Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Fixed Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 191

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775111

Highway Police 843402

Triffin Police 896381

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 665889

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage

Home News

U.K. to provide Jordan with £285,000 grant

AMMAN (J.T.) — Britain is granting Jordan £285,000 in technical aid to help the Kingdom improve its water resources, according to an agreement signed by the two sides in Amman Sunday.

The deal, which was signed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe, falls within the framework of the Ground Water Assessment Project which will take two years to complete.

The project is designed to introduce the Water Authority of Jordan to new techniques that will help provide accurate information on the environmental conditions affecting the Zarga-Amman aquifer basin, according to a statement from the British embassy.

The aid is being offered as part of the British government's financial support for this project under the Overseas Development Administration's Technical Cooperation programme,

said the embassy. The deal entails providing British expertise in providing protection to underground water resources according to the terms of the agreement.

Following the signing of the deal, the British ambassador told the Jordan News Agency Petra that the project is part of a £4 million grant pledged by Britain to Jordan to be provided over four years.

Also under the British aid programme London is providing funds to help Jordan carry out feasibility studies on privatising the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), according to the ambassador. Mr. Hinchcliffe said that a British firm is already conducting the study for the privatisation project which is expected to last two years and cost £4 million.

Britain, added the ambassador, is also financing a Jordanian project to overhaul the schools' curricula



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe sign an agreement whereby the U.K. will grant Jordan £285,000 in technical aid (Petra photo)

in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. By the end of this year,

Britain is providing a £1 million to finance a project undertaken by the Ministry

of Social Development to boost the performance and efficiency of its employees.

European delegation reviews talks on association accord with Jordan

By Ghafiah Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An official European Union (EU) delegation on relations with the Mashreq and Gulf countries arrived in Jordan on Saturday on the second leg of a visit to the region to hold talks with the Jordanian officials on the latest developments of the peace process as well as the EU-Jordan association agreement which will be finalised mid-summer.

Ingo Friedrich, head of the delegation and member of the European Parliament, told the Jordan Times Sunday that the nine-member delegation met with Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and discussed the development in negotiations on the association agreement.

He said he hoped the coming round of negotiations will be the last before signing the agreement in July.

The delegation also met with Jordan Women's Union (JWU) President Asma Khader and members of the union's executive committee and discussed women's situation in Jordan, Mr. Friedrich said.

"The meeting was very

interesting and we were very impressed by women in Jordan," he said.

Ms. Khader said the meeting tackled different issues such as the situation of women in the recent social and economic developments in Jordan.

"We explained that the status of women in Jordan is not as bad as people think ... and that we are trying to change the existing misconceptions on Arab women as well as the misinterpretation of fundamentalism and terrorism," she said.

Ms. Khader added that also discussed during the meeting were fields of cooperation through agreements signed between Jordan and the EU.

"We also talked about having the EU allocate resources for women, children and social development issues in the Kingdom," said Ms. Khader.

Mr. Friedrich said the members of the delegation, who represent several political and economic groups, will today meet with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Sour and members of the House.

On the peace process,

which is one of the main aspects of the delegation's visit to the region, Mr. Friedrich has said that the EU should formulate a common foreign policy to be able to play a more powerful role in the region.

He said the lack of a common foreign policy within the EU had caused internal problems which impeded active European involvement in the Middle East.

The delegation is scheduled to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan before going to Syria on its final-leg visit to the region.

Mr. Friedrich said earlier that at the end of the visit the delegation will prepare a report on the political and economic situation in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, for the presidency of the European Parliament and for other interested political committees.

They will also review the needs of each country and whether the projects financed by the EU need more improvement.

Holiday accidents claim 10 lives

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ten people died and dozens more were injured in various incidents in the Kingdom during the holiday weekend, according to Public Security (PSD) and Civil Defence (CDD) Department reports.

In Zarqa, a 37-year-old man identified as J.A.A., died of electrocution, according to reports.

The victim's wife told police that her husband was trying to plug the washing machine into an electricity outlet when a failure occurred and he was electrocuted.

The report said that the floor on which the victim had been standing was wet. Also in Zarqa, an 18-year-old man was killed after being electrocuted while attempting to fix the television aerial on his roof, PSD reports said.

According to the report, the victim, identified only as M.A.N., was rotating the aerial on his roof when it hit high voltage lines killing him instantly.

In Karak, a 32-year-old man shot himself in his house and left a note saying he decided to commit suicide.

The brother of the victim told police that his brother, identified as Mohammad A. A., tried to commit suicide two months ago by drinking chemicals but his attempts failed.

Police gave no motive for the suicide. They said they retrieved a pistol beside the victim's body and said they were investigating the incident.

Road accidents took their toll on two citizens and an Iraqi national over the holiday, official reports said.

In Azraq, in the trailer parking area, a 34-year-old man was killed after he was run over by his own parked trailer, the reports said.

The victim, A.S.K., was sleeping under his trailer when it rolled over him, crushing him to death.

Traffic officials said the emergency brake of the trailer was not engaged.

In Kuforyoba in Ajloun, an 87-year-old man, identified as Mohammad M.A., was killed after being struck by a vehicle while attempting to cross a road.

On the Azraq Highway, a 24-year-old man, identified as Adnan Shahin Khader, an Iraqi national, was killed after being run over by a vehicle.

Police said they apprehended both drivers in the two incidents pending further investigations.

Other road accidents during the holiday resulted in four deaths and the injury to dozens, the reports said.

The report identified the deceased as Ahmad Hussein, 34, who was killed on the Amman-Aqaba Highway; Ahlam Mohammad, 35, who was killed in Abdoun; Atouieh Yousef Nasser, 50, Ra'eda Mohammad Hashem, 25, who were killed in a road accident on the Yajouz Highway.

Meanwhile, 42 people were killed and 1,100 others were injured in 2,952 road accidents during the month of April, according to statistics.

The statistics said that the figures represented 383 less accidents than occurred in March when 37 people were killed and 1,014 others were injured, Petra reported.

According to the April report, 26.4 per cent of the injured were aged between 10 and 20 years. Drivers aged between 21 to 31 accounted for 35 per cent of the total number of motorists involved incidents.

In 1995, 399 people were killed and 9,279 people were injured in 23,292 road accidents in the Kingdom.

The PSD noted that the number of accidents in 1995 registered a 16.2 per cent increase over the previous year.

PSD statistics said the increase in accidents is due to lack of awareness programmes about road safety and traffic regulations.

Government physicians plan strike

JMA demands equanimity of rights with private sector

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Around 2,800 government physicians plan to go on a two-hour strike today (Monday) in all health government institutes during regular working hours demanding rights equal to their private sector counterparts, in a bid to pressure the government to improve their working conditions.

President of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), Bassem Dajani said that the strike period will increase exponentially "until all the demands are

met by the government."

The demands, according to Dr. Dajani, include improving the financial status and scientific levels of the government doctors and allowing them to operate private clinics after working hours.

Dr. Dajani told the Jordan Times that the association decided on the strike after negotiations with government officials failed to reach a solution.

"We decided to start a strike after we sensed that the concerned officials were not responding to our demands," Dr. Dajani said. Doctors will not offer

medical service from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The strike does not include emergency or maternity cases. The strike will resume on Wednesday and doctors will abstain from working for four hours.

On Saturday, doctors are planning to strike all day if the government does not respond to their demands.

"We are planning to strike until the government responds to the doctors demands," he said.

Bataineh returns from world health assembly, says discussions include aid to occupied Arab territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Lebanon's minister of health is expected to visit Jordan soon to discuss bilateral cooperation in health matters and to thank Jordan for its medical and other aid to the Lebanese people during and after the latest Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, Minister of Health Aref Bataineh announced Sunday.

Speaking upon his return to Amman from an annual meeting of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Dr. Bataineh said that the Lebanese minister, whom he met during the Geneva meeting, will be accompanied by an official delegation.

Dr. Bataineh said he also met with Libya's health

minister and discussed the sale of Jordanian pharmaceutical products to the north African country.

The Libyan minister said Jordan would be among the countries selected to supply his country with its medical needs, and that because of their high quality of Jordanian pharmaceuticals there was no obstacle to their import.

Referring to the World Health Assembly meeting, Dr. Bataineh said the health condition of the Arab population in the occupied territories including Palestine and help to the Palestinians were among the topics discussed at the meeting.

Furthermore, he said, the Arab health ministers who attended the meeting dis-

cussed the Arab health situation in the Israeli-held Arab lands at a private meeting and later met with the World Health Organisation (WHO) director general to demand more medical aid to the people in these occupied lands and that a mission be dispatched to these areas to study the Arab people's needs of such aid.

Dr. Bataineh said he met several Arab ministers privately to discuss cooperation in health matters with their countries.

The World Health Assembly convenes a meeting annually to set policy and the WHO's programmes and budget.

Indian chemical, pharmaceutical business team to arrive for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A high-level business delegation from India representing the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), set up by the government of India, is expected to arrive in Amman today on a three-day visit to Jordan, an Indian embassy statement said Sunday.

The 25-member delegation will be led by Kishore Chokhani, vice-chairman of CHEMEXCIL, and includes leading Indian manufacturers and exporters of drugs, pharmaceuticals, medical disposables, organic and inorganic chemicals as well as dyes and dye intermediates, the statement said.

During the visit, according to the statement, the delegates are expected to meet with Minister of Health Aref Bataineh and Secretary General Hashem Jaddou to discuss ways to further bilateral

cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

The Embassy of India in Amman is also organising a Buyer-Seller Meet at the Forte Grand Hotel on Tuesday, which would provide an opportunity, said embassy officials, for members of the visiting delegation to interact and establish fruitful business contacts with their Jordanian counterparts to mutual benefit.

The visit by the delegation coincides with the Jordan International Industrial Exhibition organised by the Amman Chamber of Industry at the Amman International Fair in Marj Al-Hammam.

Also on Tuesday, the CHEMEXCIL delegation is expected to meet with Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalidun Abu Hassan and other officials of the chamber before visiting the industrial exhibition.

According to the embassy,

this will provide an opportunity for the delegation to get acquainted with the diversity of the Jordanian manufacturers and witness the Kingdom's achievements in the industrial sphere while celebrating 50 years of independence.

The visit to Jordan is part of CHEMEXCIL's four-nation tour to the Middle East region which also includes visits to Egypt, Syria and Iran.

While in Amman, the members of the delegation are also expected to hold talks with more than 100 Jordanian manufacturers and importers of pharmaceuticals, bulk drugs, organic and inorganic chemicals and allied products which would go a long way in further consolidating trade relations between the two countries, the statement said.

NMC to raise curtain on musical talents an ocean apart

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Before the weather gets too hot to handle and music lovers head for their vacations, the National Music Conservatory (NMC) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation will present two more original concerts to quench the thirst for music of the most demanding.

On Tuesday, May 28, in cooperation with the American Centre in Amman and the Philadelphia Hotel, the NMC presents "A Jazz evening of Sketches of Dreams."

In other words, David Sanchez and his jazz quartet. Playing with a strong Latin flavour, Sanchez on saxophone will perform accompanied with drums, piano, and bass.

Using attractive melodic lines typical of the Latin stream, the quartet style remains nevertheless modern.

In addition to obvious Hispanic roots, David Sanchez' music also reveals be-bop and other jazz influences.

However, and above all, Sanchez plays with his own, personal creativity.

The concert will take place at the Philadelphia Hotel. On Saturday and Sunday June 1 and 2, also at the Philadelphia Hotel, the NMC presents the Scottish Bannfield Band.

Confirming the current passion of the public for Celtic



Saxophonist David Sanchez

Gaelic and other folk music (ref. the Eurovision contest winner with a traditional Irish song, a few days ago) the Bannfield Band is currently one of the most popular ensembles performing such music.

Alan Reid on guitar, keyboard and vocals, Alistair Russell on guitar, cinema (a traditional instrument related to the guitar), and vocals, Iain MacDonald on highland pipes, flute and whistle and the

young John McCusker on fiddle, whistle, accordion and keyboards bring virtuosity, taste and the finest musicianship to popular Scottish music.

Listening to some of their "Threads" album tracks would convince anyone truly in love with good music that this is what folk music is about.

The Bannfield Band concert is organised in cooperation with the British Council in Amman.

Under the patronage of
Their Royal Highnesses
Prince Faisal Bin Al-Hussein & Princess Alia Al Faisal

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4 World News

Jordan Times, Monday, May 27, 1996

India's Hindu party admits it may bow out; Rao faces new challenge

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India faced a mounting political crisis Sunday with Hindu nationalists admitting for the first time publicly that they may not survive a crucial vote of confidence only two days away.

The president of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), which formed the country's first Hindu nationalist government barely 11 days ago, said in an interview that it was on shaky ground.

"I wish I were in a position to say that I am confident but we are prepared for both eventualities," BJP's firebrand President Lal Krishna Advani said in a television interview to be aired Monday.

It was the first time Mr. Advani expressed doubts about his party's chances of survival when the BJP seeks Tuesday a vote of confidence in the 545-seat Lok Sabha, the lower house. A debate on the motion will begin Monday.

The BJP and its four small allies need the support of about 80 MPs in the fractured house which party leaders had been confident of getting despite the opposition's determination to topple it for its unabashed Hindu posturings.

An alliance of about a dozen centrist and regional parties supported by the Communists is set to take over the country's reins from the BJP with the backing of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party.

Mr. Rao, who led the 11-year-old Congress in a humiliating defeat in the April-May polls, was, however, faced with a renewed challenge to his leadership of the party over a resurrected bribery scandal.

Dissidents in the party demanded that Mr. Rao, 74, should quit as its chief after the Delhi High Court ordered a speedy probe into his reported involvement in attempts to bribe MPs to win a confidence vote in 1993.

"The High Court order is ground enough for Mr. Rao to step down," said Kamal Nath, a former minister who has repeatedly blamed the former prime minister for the Congress' worst electoral rout since India's independence in 1947.

Congress sources said Mr. Nath held a close-door dinner meeting late Saturday with prominent "young Turks" as well as ex-members of the party to formulate a strategy aimed at ousting Mr. Rao as party president.

The sources said a section of the party was also against Mr. Rao's decision to extend support to the centrist-regional alliance which is all set to take power from Hindu nationalists when they bow out Tuesday.

Mr. Nath's comments were echoed by Ghulam Nabi Azad, a former member of Mr. Rao's cabinet who Saturday accused him of failing to give proper leadership to the Congress and asked him to quit as its president.

Congress sources said the court's order was widely seen as a virtual indictment of Mr. Rao, and there was a mounting feeling that he was proving to be a liability as a leader.

A Rao confidant, however, rallied to his defence. "Rao's position stands as before," former Steel Minister Santosh Mohan Dev told AFP. "He has total support from the rank and file (of the Congress) to all the way up. His credibility is untouched."

Mr. Rao's five-year tenure as prime minister since 1991 was marred by several corruption scandals, including one in which he is accused of bribing opposition MPs to survive a make-or-break confidence vote in July 1993.

The Congress has denied the charges, but the court order has weakened Mr. Rao's authority in a party still reeling under the shock of the defeat in an election it had claimed it would win hands down.

Mr. Rao managed to beat back a nascent leadership challenge after the election and pledged his critical support to the centrist-regional alliance leader H.D. Deve Gowda to succeed the BJP's Atal Bihari Vajpayee as prime minister.

Political observers say the BJP government's imminent fall, the turmoil in the Congress and the coming to power of a shaky coalition government would lead to fresh uncertainty in the country of 930 million people.

Election campaigning picks up in Bangladeshi capital after failed coup

DHAKA (AFP) — Campaigning for Bangladesh's parliamentary elections picked up in the first weekend since electioneering officially began, as the shock of last week's failed coup eased.

The country's two powerful women leaders continued to hurl accusations of conspiracies at each other as they forged ahead with their election campaigns in outlying districts, newspaper reports said Sunday.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, president of the Awami League, accused Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas of "conspiring against democracy, elections and the army" as she campaigned in the country's northwest Pabna district.

Her arch-rival, former Prime Minister Khaleeda Zia, the chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), retaliated by indirectly criticising Mrs. Hasina's party of trying to get power "by any means," at a rally in southern Barisal district.

"They wanted to grab power illegally, but failed," Mrs. Khaleeda said, in what was perceived as an oblique reference to last Monday's failed military coup.

A military court of inquiry has now started an investigation into last week's dramatic events and is expected to present its findings by June 5.

A crisis gripped the nation after Mr. Biswas, a member of the BNP, sacked army chief Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim for insubordination.

after Gen. Nasim refused to dismiss two senior army officers whose retirement the president had ordered.

The government and the military moved late Friday night to quell unease by issuing a detailed explanation of events that led to the failed coup, painting a vivid picture of how Gen. Nasim ordered troops to march on Dhaka but failed.

Gen. Nasim and six other senior officers could face charges of treason if the court of inquiry finds there is enough evidence to convict them, the Defence Ministry said.

Mrs. Hasina also accused Mr. Biswas of pressuring the caretaker government to "disturb the atmosphere necessary for holding free and fair elections."

The caretaker government is charged with holding elections to the 300-seat Sangsad (parliament) on June 12 and caretaker chief Mohammad Habibur Rahman said Saturday that he intended to hold elections on schedule.

"I want to warn in clear terms that any attempt to disrupt normalcy prevailing in the country by anybody will not be tolerated," Mr. Rahman said in a speech broadcast on state television.

The caretaker government was constituted to hold the elections after a series of strikes led by the Awami League, forced Mrs. Khaleeda to resign as prime minister last month.

S. Korea revamps air raid warning system, defector speaks of hardships

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea started revamping its air raid warning system this week as a defector spoke of an arms buildup and economic hardships in isolated North Korea.

The overhaul, endorsed at a weekend cabinet meeting, followed the arrest of four operators at the capital's alert control centre on charges of negligence.

The air raid warning system in Seoul failed Thursday when the defector, a North Korean Air Force pilot, flew his MiG-19 fighter South, leaving the city's 11 million residents, only 58 kilometres from the tense border, unalarmed.

The failure has touched off a security alarm here, prompting government officials to introduce advanced equipment and a new software programme for the nation's automatic alert system.

"The air-raid warning system needs to be overhauled in order to prevent the recurrence of the failure," Kim Ui-Jae, vice mayor of Seoul, was quoted as saying.

Prosecutors have found that Seoul's on-line computerised alert system was disconnected because of frequent breakdowns and improper maintenance.

The defection by the air force captain, Li Chol-Su, 30, coincided with a sea incursion by North Korean patrol boats, which triggered a tense standoff with South Korean navy vessels.

The sea incursion came on the heels of a string of forays by North Korean troops into the sensitive demilitarised zone (DMZ) last month in breach of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

The Communist North has said it will ignore the armistice and its rules regulating troop behaviour in the DMZ, which divides the Korean peninsula.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam has ordered military chiefs to remain vigilant against further provocations by the economically embattled North.

On Sunday, Seoul newspapers quoted the defector as telling investigators that Pyongyang had developed new ground-to-air missiles despite economic hardships that forced pilots to wrap their feet with cloth instead of socks.

The defector did not elaborate on the North's missile development but said the

North's air force footing had been revamped to shorten flying time for cross-border raids, the newspapers said.

Capt. Li reportedly spoke of political instability in Pyongyang, caused by serious food shortages, saying the North Korean military had tightened vigilance in border areas to stop defections.

The pilot had used pieces of white cotton cloth to keep his feet warm instead of using socks, military officials here told reporters when his personal items were displayed.

"Fighter pilots are one of the most privileged groups in the North. The fact that they are not issued socks illustrates the severity of the North's economic situation," an official was quoted as saying.

Capt. Li's belongings included pigskin boots, a Soviet-made helmet and other "antiquated" equipment, as well as a track suit the pilot wore underneath his pilot's uniform.

"It is impossible to compare the items with those issued to our pilots because they are so poorly made. From them we can infer that the North's economy is on its last legs," the official concluded.

U.S. senator in N. Korea

Meanwhile U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson arrived in North Korea Sunday on what could be a crucial mission to persuade the hardline Communist state to accept proposed four-nation peace talks.

Mr. Richardson, accompanied by U.S. State and Defense Department officials, had arrived in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The U.S. congressman was greeted at Pyongyang airport by North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye-Gwan and other officials, KCNA, monitored in Tokyo, said.

Mr. Richardson had left a U.S. Air Base in the suburbs of Tokyo early Sunday, diplomatic sources said. Citing security reasons, a spokesman for the air base declined to confirm or deny Mr. Richardson's departure.

The trip takes place as the United States and South Korea await an official reply from Pyongyang on the proposed four-nation peace talks.

Albanians vote in general election

TIRANA (R) — Albanians voted Sunday in their third free elections since the Balkan state's repressive Communist regime was ousted from power in 1990, in a showdown between ruling conservatives and opposition Socialists.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT), and, first reports said voting, was brisk and was likely to meet the expected turnout figure of around 80 per cent.

Queues formed outside polling stations in the capital, Tirana, soon after dawn opened.

The atmosphere appeared calm despite a bitter month-long campaign in which the ruling Democratic Party and Socialists accused each other of intimidation and violence.

Conservative President Sali Berisha, whose Democrats are hoping for a second consecutive term in government, voted early with his wife, Liri.

"This is an historic day for Albanians," Mr. Berisha, a former heart surgeon, told reporters among a crowd of well-wishers who watched the president cast his ballot.

"God bless the Albanians and their free vote. God bless Albania," said Mr. Berisha, a devout Muslim, at a polling station in a school near his modest Tirana apartment.

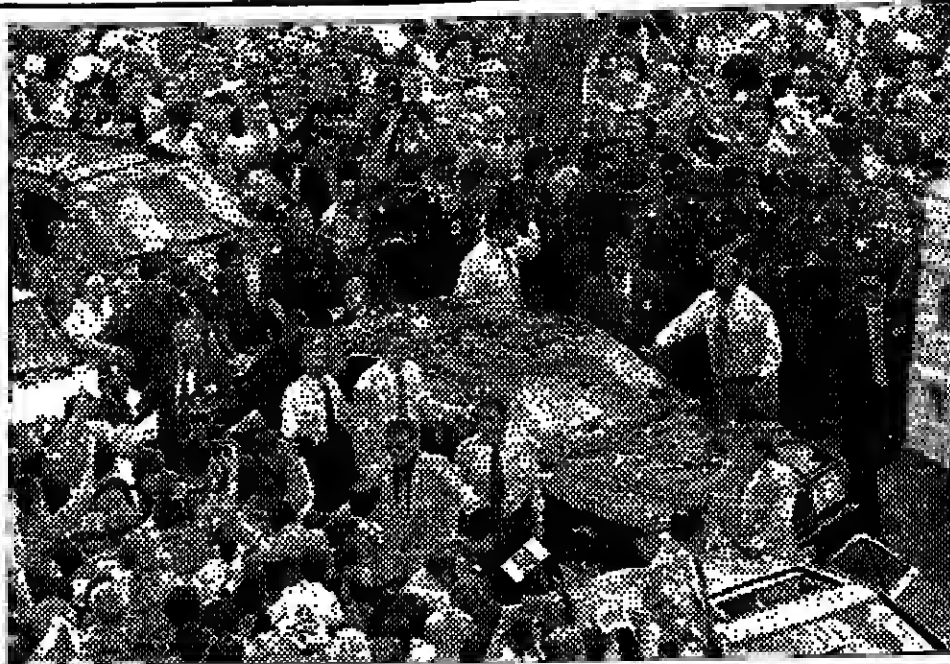
Observers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United States and the European Union were in place at polling stations around the impoverished state of 3.4 million people to help ensure the vote was fair.

Servet Pellumbi, deputy leader of the Socialist Party which is fighting to regain power after losing badly to the Democrats in the last general election in 1992, also voted early.

"We are expecting from today's elections that Albanian democracy will emerge from the collapse Mr. Berisha's regime has inflicted on it," the former philosophy professor said.

Prof. Pellumbi was unable to stand in the election for the 140-seat parliament after the Democrats passed a law last year barring officials with links to the former Stalinist regime from seeking political office until 2002.

Socialist leader Fatos Nano remains in jail in the remote town of Tepelena in southern Albania. The legality of his trial and conviction on corruption charges in 1994 raised concern in the West.



The car carrying Bulgarian exile King Simeon II, covered with flowers, makes its way tediously through a cheering throng held back by police. Tens of thousands of people lined the route from the airport into capital, Sofia, many of them holding portraits of the balding, bearded monarch who last saw his homeland as a child fleeing the Communist takeover in 1946 (Reuter photo)

Royalist fans mob Bulgaria's king

SOFIA (R) — Ecstatic royalists mobbed Bulgaria's King Simeon II as he toured Sofia's lavish Orthodox Churches Sunday, a day after his triumphant return from 50 years of exile.

King Simeon, who lives in the Spanish capital Madrid and works as a business consultant, fled Bulgaria as a child in 1946 after the Soviet Red Army installed a puppet Communist regime.

Up to half a million people, considerably more than initial estimates had suggested, turned out Saturday with flags, banners and flowers to welcome King Simeon and his Spanish aristocrat wife Margarita.

Veteran local journalists said the hordes of people had dwarfed even the pro-democracy demonstrations that overthrew the Communist dictatorship of Todor Zhivkov in 1989.

Sunday's newspapers were emblazoned with photographs of King Simeon weeping with joy as he waved to the throng and of Bulgarians clambering onto buses and trams to catch a glimpse of their lean, balding monarch.

Despite the jubilant scenes, however, the Socialist government of ex-Communists is treating King Simeon as a private citizen and plans to avoid any public contact with him.

State television, which had given no live coverage of King Simeon's arrival, showed excerpts of his visit Saturday evening's news bulletins. State media refer to the king as "Simeon" "Coburgovski," the name his Bulgarian passport bears.

"I want to play" for two minutes for Bulgaria," King Simeon said Sunday after entering the tiny Byzantine Saint Sofia Church which dates back to the sixth century and which gave the Bulgarian capital its name.

King Simeon admonished excited worshippers for chanting his name in a holy place and priests had to shelve plans to seat him on their wooden throne — a traditional element of Eastern Orthodox Churches — because of the crowds.

"I am very excited to have seen our beloved king," Vesselin Arnaudov, a priest, told Reuters, adding that King Simeon's visit had not disturbed the church's liturgy. "How could it disrupt our service? He is a true Bulgarian Orthodox Christian," the priest said.

When he left the church many admirers, including elderly people, chased his dark Mercedes. Elsewhere, during impromptu

stops around Sofia, people gave flowers and kissed his hands.

Despite the unparalleled outpouring of support for King Simeon, opinion polls show less than 20 per cent of Bulgarians want a restoration of the monarchy while politicians and commentators remain sharply divided over the significance of his visit.

Velko Vulkanov, a deputy of the ruling Socialist Party, told the Standart newspaper the visit, expected to last several weeks, was a "huge mistake" that would enmesh King Simeon in local politics and sully his image over time.

Criticism was not confined to the ex-Communists. Anastasia Moser, leader of the liberal opposition Agrarian Party, said King Simeon would distract attention from Bulgaria's real political battles at a critical point in its transition.

"Whatever the ovations he receives, he will not unite but divide the nation," said Ms. Moser, whose father was a prominent statesman during the reign of King Simeon's father King Boris and was killed by the Communists at the end of World War II.

At a news conference Saturday, King Simeon stressed that he was only able to return to his homeland because Bulgaria had become a genuine democracy. He declined to comment on the country's current economic woes.

Speaking in fluent Bulgarian, English, French and German, King Simeon told some 200 journalists he wanted to travel around the country and talk and listen to ordinary people.

In the past, King Simeon has not ruled out running for president at some point in the future and has made clear he wants to make a contribution as Bulgaria charts its difficult course to a more open, prosperous society after four decades of communism.

King Simeon says he remains technically king because he has never abdicated and believes the 1946 referendum that declared Bulgaria a republic was rigged by the Moscow-backed Communists.

Though the government has kept its distance and has not taken responsibility for King Simeon's security, it has not raised any serious obstacles to his visit. A private security firm is protecting the royal couple during their stay.

Asked how long he intended to stay in Bulgaria, King Simeon said, "it depends on the host, not the guest."



Bulgarian exile King Simeon II (left) greets supporters after his arrival at Sofia's airport on May 25 (Reuter photo)

Thousands of S. Korean students stage anti-U.S., anti-government protests

SEOUL (AFP) — Thousands of radical students battled riot police in violent anti-U.S. protests here Sunday, as tens of thousands of opposition party supporters staged a separate anti-government rally.

"Yankee go home!" chanted some 7,000 student demonstrators, some armed with iron bars, in running protests through the city's sprawling commercial districts.

The radicals demanded Washington's apology for

the failure of the U.S. military command here to stop the 1980 massacre of civilians by South Korean troops in the southern city of Kwangju.

Platoons of club-wielding riot police repeatedly attacked the students, chasing them through clouds of tear gas after forming human barricades behind black armored vehicles.

Half of the students fled in the face of initial tear gas attacks, but 3,000 defiant radicals fought back with

steel pipes and rocks in scattered clashes across Seoul.

About 150 protesters were

haunted away, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Radical students and dis-

sidents blame the U.S. military command here for con-

doning the dispatch of

South Korean combat

troops to Kwangju in 1980,

when a civil uprising erupted

against troops loyal to

ex-President Chun

Doo-Hwan.

Couple remarries after bride forgets first wedding

DALLAS (R) — A New Mexico couple remarried Saturday, hoping that this time the bride will remember tying the knot. Kim and Krickitt Carpenter said their marital vows at a log chapel in the mountains of northern New Mexico, putting the seal on a sometimes troubled second courtship which was forced by a terrible car accident in November 1993. Krickitt Carpenter, 26, suffered a serious head injury in the crash, which came just two months after she married Kim Carpenter, and was in a coma for a month. When she came to, she thought Richard Nixon was president and had no idea who her husband was, much less remember ever marrying him. Her short-term memory loss wreaked havoc on their relationship until a therapist suggested they start again from the beginning by dating. It worked. They fell in love all over again and walked back up the aisle Saturday. "It was really exciting," the bride said in a telephone interview from the wedding reception in a hotel in the small New Mexico town of Las Vegas. She said that after coming out of the coma she initially found her 30-year-old husband too pushy but decided to make an extra effort to recover what they had. "I figured I loved him before and I just needed to reacquaint myself with him," she said. "I chose to fall in love with him again." The bride said Saturday's church ceremony was more a recommitment than a wedding, but that it was a full spectacle nonetheless. She wore her original wedding dress, he wore a tuxedo and they had five bridesmaids. The couple have already sold the film rights for their story and have an author lined up to write a book.

Father used dog collars to give sons electric shocks

ST. PAUL, Minn. (R) — Police were searching Saturday for a divorced father who is charged with using electric dog collars to punish his sons with shocks. Jeffery Hoveland, 49, eluded police after being charged Friday with two counts of malicious punishment of his sons Joshua, 11, and Josiah, 9. Police said they were watching Mr. Hoveland's house, where the boys claimed their father administered at least 20 painful shocks over the past two months with \$300 electric collars used for training dogs that he fixed to their necks and limbs. The boys said their father gave them shocks, equivalent to that from an electrical outlet, when he felt they were lying, or if they refused to do sit-ups or read. Police were alerted when the boys refused to visit their father. Mr. Hoveland was divorced nearly a decade ago from the boys' mother Jeannie, but retained rights to see his sons. He was previously convicted of firebombing his wife's home and once doused her with gasoline and tried to set her on fire.

Royal guard lost secret documents — press

LONDON (AFP) — A policeman attached to the Royal Protection Squad lost plans and other details of the security of the private homes of the Prince of Wales and his sister the Princess Royal in the street, the Sun reported. The mass-circulation tabloid said the policeman concerned had left the documents in a briefcase on the roof of his car and driven away without realising. They were found in the street by a passer-by, who sent them to the daily. The Sun, which handed them back to the police, said they included plans of the homes of Prince Charles and Princess Anne in western England.

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Burma dissidents promise action in democracy struggle

RANGOON (R) — Burmese dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi opened a conference of her pro-democracy party Sunday despite widespread detentions by the military government in an attempt to scuttle the meeting.

Ms. Suu Kyi, who leads the National League for Democracy (NLD), told some 400 party members packed into a bamboo and thatched meeting hall that more action would be taken to press the ruling military to recognise the NLD's 1990 election victory.

"Since the 1990 election, the people of Burma have suffered greatly from lack of democratic rights. That is why their desire for democracy is stronger now than it was six years ago," she said.

"For that reason the National League for Democracy has decided to increase its actions to fulfill the will of the people and bring about national reconciliation."

Rather than being cowed by a sweeping crackdown against the party, with 238 of the elected politicians who were due to attend picked up by police in the past week, the NLD announced that Sunday's gathering would be the first of many.

"This meeting was originally intended to have been a meeting of elected representatives of the NLD but since 238 of them have been detained, and probably more from whom we've not yet heard, we are not able to carry on with our original plan," NLD Chairman Aung Shwe told the opening session.

"This is not a meeting of elected representatives of the NLD but the first of a series of NLD conferences which we shall be holding," he said.

The ruling military body, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), says it has not arrested the NLD members but only detained them for questioning in

order to avoid unrest and "anarchy" that may result from the Congress.

Most South East Asian governments have officially remained silent on Burma's crackdown, in sharp contrast to strong protests voiced by the United States, Australia and Japan.

The United States said Saturday it was "deeply concerned" about the arrests and had sent a special envoy to discuss a coordinated response with European and Asian allies.

Ms. Suu Kyi, who won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent campaign for democracy, has stressed patience and moderation since her release from six years of house arrest last July. But she told a weekend crowd outside her house that patience did not mean doing nothing.

"After I was released from house arrest I told everyone to be patient but I don't mean you should sit down and wait for things to happen," she said.

"Patience doesn't mean you sit down and do nothing. Even if the gains are very little you should still do something."

"In our increased activities we invite not only the people of the country but also the authorities to join us because that is the only way we can bring peace and happiness to our land," she told some 5,000 supporters outside her home Saturday.

The NLD, co-founded by Ms. Suu Kyi in September 1988, swept 82 per cent of the 485 seats up for grabs in the 1990 poll which was called by the military government.

The SLORC never recognised the election outcome and instead launched a major crackdown against the opposition.

NLD Deputy Secretary General Tin Oo declined to give details of the party's plans saying he did not want to reveal



Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech of her National League for Democracy (NLD) congress at an assembly hall in the compound of her house in Rangoon on May 26. Ms. Suu Kyi opened a party congress despite widespread arrests and attempts by the military government to scuttle the meeting (Reuters photo)

Yeltsin, Zyuganov face off in Russia election

MOSCOW (R) — Russia chooses its next president in three weeks in an election that will decide whether Boris Yeltsin gets a mandate to continue his reforms or the Communists hoist the red flag over the Kremlin again.

About 105 million people are eligible to vote on June 16 across a vast expanse covering 11 time zones from Russia's western enclave of Kaliningrad to Chukotka in the Far East.

Mr. Yeltsin, 65, portrays himself as the sole guarantor of democratic reforms. He says defeat would mean an end to progress and risk plunging Russia in to civil war.

His main rival, 51-year-old Communist Gennady Zyuganov, denies he would revive Soviet terror or abandon reforms. He says the only way to save off the collapse of the economy, and restore Russia's former glories, is to elect him.

Yeltsin and Zyuganov are far ahead of the other candidates and it has clearly come down to victory for one of these two. Yuri Levada, head of the Vision polling group, told Reuters.

The other nine candidates, including former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky, trail far behind.

But Mr. Levada and other pollsters say neither Mr. Yeltsin nor Mr. Zyuganov is likely to get more than half the votes cast on June 16, the amount needed for outright victory.

They are expected to be the top two vote-winners, giving them the right to go into a one-on-one showdown three weeks later for the right to hold Russia's most powerful post for the next four years.

Mr. Yeltsin, showing no signs of the heart problems which forced him to spend long spells out of the Kremlin last year, has campaigned energetically and made up huge ground to draw level with Mr. Zyuganov in most polls. He has even edged ahead in some.

His main message is that, although times are hard under the reforms, the changes are showing signs of success and only he can complete them. He evokes memories of repression and censorship to paint the Communists as enemies of the people.

"Your future and your children's future will be assured if, on June 16, the Communists do not come to power," Mr. Yeltsin told voters during a campaign trip to the arctic city of Arkhangelsk Friday. "I hope you won't allow that."

His campaign has been helped by his control of state television channels, and he has exploited the levers of power to make huge cash handouts, pay off wage arrears and promise bet-

ter pensions.

Mr. Zyuganov hits back by saying life could hardly be worse than it has been since Mr. Yeltsin took office in June 1991.

The burly former college teacher uses rising unemployment, soaring crime, unpaid wages and a drop in living standards as his weapons.

"In terms of quality of life, reforms have taken us back 50 years," Mr. Zyuganov said during a recent campaign trip to Yekaterinburg in the Urals Mountains.

He is hoping to capitalise on gains made in a parliamentary election last December which made the Communists the biggest party in the lower house.

He vows to help Russian industry win back its pride and says he would avoid mass renationalisation of privatised property.

Such comments are designed to ease the concerns of worried Western investors, but Western analysts remain divided on how much the Communists would tamper with the reforms.

The Communists, increasingly on the defensive as Mr. Zyuganov's lead has been whittled away, say the election will be rigged. But although one aide has said the election should be postponed, Mr. Yeltsin says it will go ahead on time and will be fair.

Central African troops put off return to barracks

BANGUI (R) — Rebel soldiers in the Central African Republic, angered by the apparent promotion of an officer they want sacked, put off returning to barracks Sunday to pursue the standoff with the French-backed president.

President Ange-Felix Patasse, who has been backed by French troops in the week-long confrontation, raised the stakes Saturday by apparently promoting the head of the Presidential Guard, whose sacking was a key demand of the mutineers.

Their spokesman, Sergeant Cyrille Souke, described the move as a "provocative insult."

"The army doesn't want it," he said.

Sgt. Souke said rebel soldiers wanted to go back to barracks to ease the suffering of civilians in the capital Bangui, most of them trapped at home for days because of the violence.

"It's only that things have changed. We have heard that the head of state has promoted the director of presidential security to the rank of general," Sgt. Souke told Reuters.

"That is what led us to hold a meeting at 3 a.m. this morning and the troops have decided to postpone their return to barracks," he said.

But he added that mutiny leaders would hold further talks with the French military on the development.

The riverside city of shady mango trees and colonial villas has been devastated by fighting between troops and mutineers.

French troops have secured the city centre and vigilantes armed with machetes and bows and arrows guard homes and businesses against looters.

The airport is closed, except for French and U.S. military evacuation flights taking foreigners out. A 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew is in force.

Missionaries and aid workers in the interior report acts of lawlessness by the army and say security is deteriorating.

The commander of the French operation, General Bernard Thorette, is leading negotiations with the rebels in the presence of the Archbishop of Bangui Joachim N'Dayen.

On Saturday the mutineers had said they were optimistic a settlement could be reached, but after consultations overnight they opted to continue their rebellion.

Most of world's homeless are women and children — U.N.

WASHINGTON (R) — Most of the roughly 100 million homeless people in the world are women and children, and up to 600 million live in inadequate, unhealthy shelters, the United Nations said Sunday.

In a report prepared for its upcoming conference on the problems of the world's burgeoning cities, the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements said of the estimated 1.3 billion people living in poverty, 70 per cent are women and girls.

Women and girls also are the most rapidly growing group of impoverished, which the report called "the global feminisation of poverty," they make up half the world's population, but own just 1 per cent of its wealth.

Wally N'Dow, secretary-general of the conference — to be held June 3-14 in Istanbul, Turkey — said a major purpose of the meeting will be to promote women's rights to own and inherit property and their need for better wages and living conditions.

"There is a tremendous effort... to remove those barriers today," Mr. N'Dow said in an interview. "The cultural barriers, for instance, that affect women's right to ownership of homes in some parts of the world, I think will be one of the most debated issues in Istanbul."

While he said there is broader acceptance worldwide that the situation of women must be improved, the U.N. report gave a bleak assessment of the current condition.

Some 50,000 people — mostly women and children — die daily because of poor shelter, polluted water and had sanitation, it said. Some 70 million women and children

live in homes where smoke from cooking fires damages their health.

If housing could be brought to a minimal accepted standard, there would be 5 million fewer deaths and 2 million fewer disabilities annually, the U.N. estimated.

Women are relegated to homelessness or squatter-status in many parts of the world where they cannot legally own or inherit land, cannot obtain bank loans, receive much lower wages than men, and often are abandoned to raise children on their own.

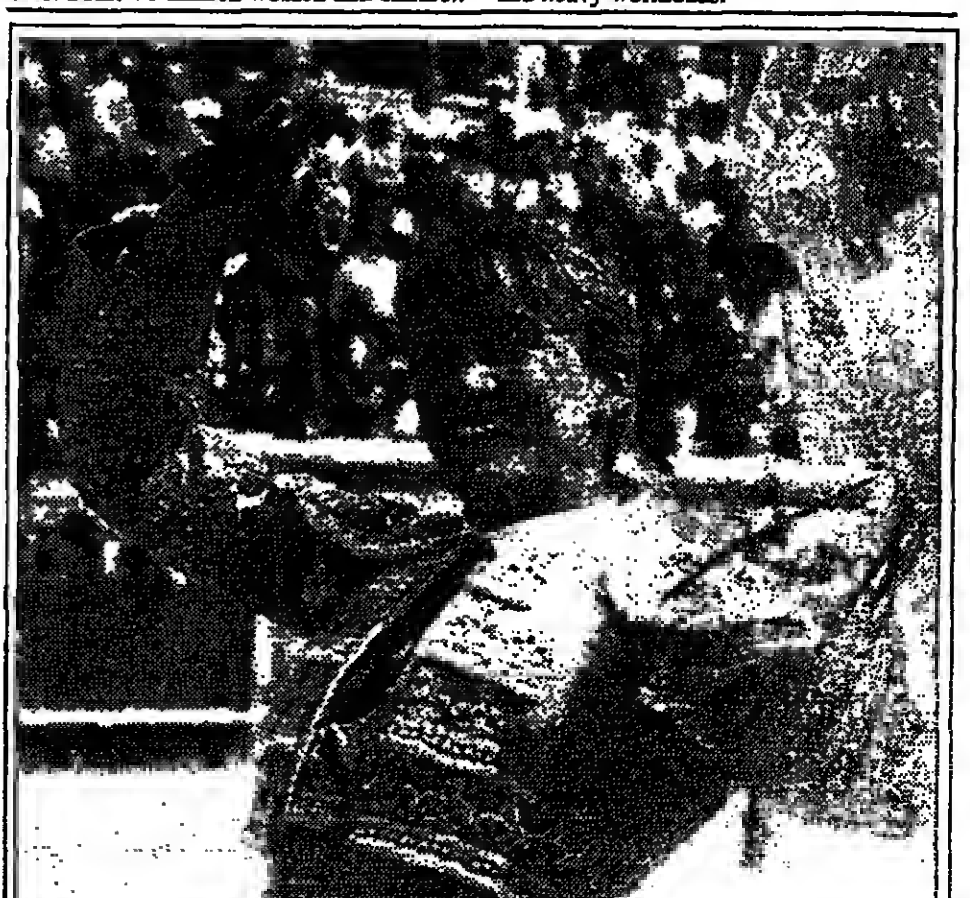
Women and children also are prime victims of political upheavals, comprising 70-80 per cent of the world's 23 million refugees, the U.N. said.

Women — who are most likely to work in or near the home — also are most affected by bad planning in housing and settlement projects, the report said, such as failure to include child-care facilities and playgrounds, inappropriate location of water sources, poorly lit streets and public areas, and inadequate transportation.

The U.N. said the lack of safe available water is one of the most pressing health problems for women and older girls, who usually are saddled with the chore of fetching water.

The report said in some parts of rural Africa, women must use up to 85 per cent of their daily energy intake in lugging water.

In those regions, 40 per cent of non-pregnant women and 63 per cent of pregnant women are anaemic because of poor diets and heavy workloads.



Spanish bullfighter becomes first female matadore in over 50 years

NIMES, France — A Spanish bullfighter Saturday became the first female to attain the coveted title of matador in more than half a century. Cristina Sanchez, 24, joined the all-male ranks of matadors — the highest level for bullfighters — in a fight considered her official graduation. She battled the bull with her cape before taking up her sword and moving in for the kill at an arena in Nimes, 560 kilometres south of Paris and just north of the Mediterranean Sea. The petite blonde then raised her clenched fists in the air to acknowledge the cheers of the audience. Ms. Sanchez has fought smaller bulls since she was 17 as a junior bullfighter or "novillera." Several other women currently are junior bullfighters. During the first half of this century, five other women attained the rank of matador. Ms. Sanchez is the first to win the title since Madrid's Juanita Cruz, who fought mainly in Latin America in the 1930s. The photograph shows Ms. Sanchez jubilant when she receives the two ears of a bull she killed during the Nimes Feria (Reuters photo)

N. Irish poll clouded by IRA's return to war

BELFAST (R) — British-run Northern Ireland is counting down to an election Thursday that is the crucial next step in a two-year peace process snarled by resurgent IRA guerrillas and political rivalry.

Polarised by split national loyalties, Protestants and Catholics will vote for peace negotiators charged with resolving strife that cost 3,200 lives in warring between armed groups across the sectarian divide and government forces.

But a shadow engulfs a peace conference due on June 10. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) returned on a warpath after a lull, targeting London in a bombing campaign to end Britain's links with the Northern province of the partitioned island.

Media reports say prospects of an early restored ceasefire to boost the peace process are fading fast.

"IRA ceasefire is unlikely before Northern (Ireland) election," the Dublin Irish Times headlined. In Belfast, the Irish News, quoting a Republican activist said: "Talk of ceasefire dismissed by the IRA."

Britain and Ireland, burying old enmity to pursue a joint peace quest, say June's all-party peace talks offer the province its best prospect of peace for generations.

But they say they will not negotiate under the shadow of the gun and will refuse Sinn Fein a seat at the talks unless the IRA calls off its violence.

Ministers are deadlocked about how to coax the IRA into calling a truce. Britain is under pressure from Protestant Unionist politicians not to retreat from demands for an early handover of weapons.

The guerrillas rule out an arms surrender before a peace deal is signed. They want guarantees that the talks will include their aim of an all-Ireland republic, and that negotiations will not be impaled on the arms issue.

On Thursday the majority Protestants, who want undiluted British rule, and minority Catholics who want a new all-Ireland state, will choose between 24 groups comprising traditional mainstream Unionist and nationalists and a range of new voices.

Britain said participants in the June talks must seek a talks mandate. The ten best performing parties in Thursday's election of 110 "delegates" to a new provincial forum will be given seats in the all-party talks.

A hybrid voting method virtually ensures seats for the political wings of Protestant militants as a reward for an

18 month truce. Protestant guerrillas killed hundreds of Catholics to thwart the IRA and protect British rule.

Analysts predict a rancorous start to the talks, with Sinn Fein clamouring to get in, arguing that they have a mandate to be treated equally with other parties.

Mainstream Unionist politicians say they will treat Sinn Fein as pariahs until the IRA hands in weaponry.

The forum, which Catholics feared would be a Trojan horse to resurrect old-style Protestant domination, will have no law-making powers and will last for one year.

The IRA struck in London on Feb. 9 with the first of five bombs that killed three people — including one of its own guerrillas — and cost millions of pounds in damage.

Protestants, the descendants of 17th century English and Scottish "planters" sent by the British crown, deride the Republicans' "peace strategy" and say the IRA is interested only in total victory, not accommodating conflicting allegiances.

Catholics, a minority of whom give backing to the IRA and Sinn Fein, say Protestants regard them as "fifth columnists" for a united Ireland and scorn any political links with Dublin.

Paper says Prince William does not want to be king

LONDON (R) — Prince William, heir to Britain's throne after his father, has shocked his parents by announcing he does not want to be king, a British newspaper said Sunday.

But the Sunday Mirror said Prince Charles was taking the 13-year-old's statement calmly and his estranged wife, Princess Diana, was trying to win her son over by "gentle persuasion."

The newspaper, quoting friends of the princess, said Prince William had told his parents he wanted a "normal life" and also that he wanted to break with the family tradition of joining the navy.

Princess Diana, enmeshed in a bitter divorce wrangle with Prince Charles, had advised Prince William to "wait and see," hoping that it was an adolescent phase he would grow out of.

Princess Diana has in the past suggested that Prince Charles should renounce his claim to the throne if he wants to marry his mistress Camilla Parker Bowles and make way for Prince William.

The Sunday Mirror quoted a friend of Prince Charles as saying: "Charles does not regard this as any kind of constitutional crisis at this stage. He hopes this is just a phase William is going through."

But a friend of Princess Diana said: "William is excep-

tionally mature for his age. He really knows his own mind," according to the newspaper.

Buckingham Palace aides were unavailable for comment. But, in another report likely to fuel the controversy surrounding the British royal family, the Sunday Times said Prime Minister John Major had delivered an oblique warning to Prince Charles.

The newspaper said Mr. Major, in a programme for the BBC to be broadcast Wednesday, described as "odd" Prince Charles' stated desire to be seen as a defender for all religions in Britain.

In a key interview with broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby two years ago, Prince Charles expressed his desire to be seen as "Defender of Faith" rather than "Defender of the Faith", as the sovereign is known as the head of the Church of England.

Constitutional experts say Prince Charles could still take the throne if he divorced Princess Diana. But the question of his role as head of the official church has not been finally resolved.

Mr. Major, in the programme where he faced questions from Asian voters, said any effort by Prince Charles to defend faiths of which he was not a member might be seen as an "empty gesture."

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Day to renew faith

WHILE THE Prime Minister tried, in his speech marking Independence Day yesterday, to give credit where it is due in linking this country's achievements to the man who led it for the best part of the last 50 years, His Majesty the King sought to look reflectively on what has been done and what needs to be done yet in Jordan's march towards progress and development.

The King stressed four major themes in outlining his vision. What has been achieved was not a gift from heaven; this country had to work hard for and earn what it has today. National unity is our most important treasure, and nobody, certainly not the pessimists and the cynics, should be allowed to undermine confidence in ourselves and our collective will to move forward together. Despair, on the other hand, will be fought and defeated; it is true that this country has very limited resources, but then when did we ever have abundance? When was material wealth the only determinant in shaping a people's future? Finally, His Majesty mentioned the heavy responsibilities and challenges that his government shoulders, whether those inherited from previous governments or the others that Jordanians expected it to meet in the short period of time it has been in office.

The King's and the Prime Minister's speeches will have been heard and read by the majority of our people by today, just as they will have been analysed by many political pundits and observers. But regardless of how many theories regarding this last theme there might be already, the point is that His Majesty chose yesterday's occasion to renew his confidence in Mr. Kabariti's government. This is an indication, first, that the changing situation in the region does not call for change at home. Secondly, the message is clear that high expectations that have gone hand in hand with this government cannot blur the vision of what really needs to be done before profound and positive change is brought about in this country. "The picture will change," the King told Jordanians explicitly. "This might not, in fact could not, happen overnight. But it will happen."

Thus, if there was one conclusion that had to be made about the 50th anniversary of our independence, it would be to describe it as a watershed in the history of the Kabariti government. The fact that the King chose to give the prime minister and his team an unprecedented public boost and urged all citizens to back their efforts is a step that will not be taken lightly or easily overlooked by Jordanians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily Sunday praised the Islamic World's quick condemnation of the murder of seven French Christian monks by armed groups in Algeria. It was the least thing that the Islamic World could do vis-à-vis the dastardly crime committed against innocent people and religious men, said Mahmoud Rimawi. He said that Islam and Muslims are totally opposed to such crimes which are alien to their faith that calls for tolerance and affection. If the armed group that committed this ugly crime believes that it is fighting France with such actions because France is a colonial nation, this is an unreasonable and illogical excuse because Algeria has been an independent state for the past 33 years, and the two countries live in peace and close cooperation in all fields, said the writer. Even if the group claims that France is supporting the government of Algeria, this is no excuse for committing crimes against innocent people like monks nuns and small children, he continued.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily said the Arabs in general and countries around Israel in particular are more concerned with the outcome of the coming Israeli parliamentary elections than the results of elections in any Arab state simply because Israel is applying a parliamentary and political system similar to the successful one in the United States. Mohammad Qariouli said that both in Israel and the U.S. a parliament seat is considered a serious responsibility, and the deputy is held accountable for his actions by the electorate, unlike the case of the Arab World. By voting for a certain party or deputy, the Israeli voters are choosing people who they believe will remain committed to their election campaign programme and ones who will help achieve the public's aspirations, continued the writer.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Tourism and the General Agreement on Trade in Services

CLEARLY TOURISM in Jordan has flourished after the signing of the peace treaty. While tourism worldwide increased by over 10 per cent last year, in Jordan the increase in 1995, from the previous year, was 35 per cent; and we stand to benefit even more — initial predictions tell us that tourism revenue is likely to increase by 15 per cent next year — as Jordan increases the value of its stock of historical treasures through improved access to sites and better on-site services.

Investors and economic analysts will undoubtedly continue to view this sector as our fastest growing and definitely the most profitable, considering Jordan's past experience with tourism: huge short-run profits, and the wealth of yet unexplored tourism potential. But a warning is in order: tourism must always be viewed in relation to the region as a whole.

Tourism is not a panacea for all our woes: it is a risky investment in that it can be easily and immediately affected by events in neighbouring countries or natural phenomena such as earthquakes which can render a tourism site almost obsolete, even after the effect has waned.

Additionally, many economists assert that tourism has a low multiplier effect on the economy as a whole, relative to other economic activities such as manufacturing, especially if the country is, like Jordan, a non-industrial country, because most of the revenue from tourism is poured on imports to satisfy the tastes of tourists. Furthermore, the experience of most countries indicates that tourism is never a vehicle for modernisation and development, especially if it is the leading economic sector. At the same time, economic theory stresses that the success of a sector, in our case tourism, may harm other sectors as resources are diverted from the less successful or profitable sectors to the profitable one (this is known as the Dutch disease).

In addition, tourism can affront the sentiment and cultural biases of natives as their morals and ethics are confronted with those of peoples from different cultures. East meets West in your front yard and at your door step and nobody has bothered to tell you how the West behaves and how you should not stare.

Overall, we can surmise that tourism is not an easy business; furthermore, if you are an investor or a likely investor, then you must plan ahead (at least ten years) because Jordan is about to enter into the World Trade Organisation and become a signatory to the agreements of the Uruguay Round. Among those agreements is the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) which is an agreement aimed at liberalising trade in services around the world.

The GATS is based on the philosophy that the easier it is for firms to compete and conduct business globally, the more trade will develop, and the better the prospects for world economic growth will be. The objective of the GATS is to lift restrictions on trade in services by setting harmonised and transparent rules for all trade partners, regardless of their nationality or origin, by granting most-favoured-nation (MFN) status to all the signatories of GATS, and by removing restrictions that hamper trade in services.

Discriminatory practices and restrictions on trade in services will become relics of the past as members of the WTO will also become signatories to the GATS. Trade restrictions on tourism take many forms and include setting up branches abroad, inter-company transfer of employees across national borders, cross-border currency and profit or payment transfers, the unauthorised use of trademarks or service marks, and discriminatory barriers that include delays in the issue of visas to tourists or employees of a tourism company, etc.

MFN treatment is beneficial to Jordanian tourism companies since Jordan is a net exporter of tourist services. Through the MFN treatment, our companies will benefit from the privileges given to countries by any GATS signatory. Our advertisements and marketing efforts will not be discriminated against as the MFN and market access conditions are applied to our tourism. Additionally, the following GATS requirements will significantly impact the way the business of tourism is conducted in Jordan.

Provision of clear and accessible definition of the commercial rules and obligations of a country must be made. Therefore, access to markets, together with the conditions and obligations that are outlined by a WTO/GATS member, must be clearly delineated, which means that Jordanian laws affecting tourism must be clear and available to any person who desires to know about the sector.

Governments are required to define specific undertakings in a universal scope regarding tourism, especially regarding MFN, market access and domestic practices.

For the present, the effect of the GATS commitments may not seem too obvious; however, the future of the GATS holds many requirements which are important for the member nations. They must provide complete access to domestic and international markets, hotel franchising, management contracts and technical assistance agreements.

Governments must provide better information networks, better market access, and improve their participation in the distribution and generation of data. All these can be viewed as possible improvements which can be achieved through well-studied and successfully negotiated commitments.

The effect of the GATS on Jordanian tourism will only become quantifiable when we do enter into the WTO and negotiate the GATS and other agreements. Comprehensive and committed planning will win trade gains to Jordan. Support industries that provide additional value to the tourism industry must thrive and expand from now with two main strategies: first, produce things in which we have a competitive advantage and generate economies of scale; second, market what we produce with a Western orientation and signal to the world our commitment to growth and development through well-thought-out and negotiated trade agreements like GATS.

Other words, we must devise implementable strategies that make us more competitive in the Jordanian market and that will help us to increase the number of tourists that come to Jordan.

Human Rights File

About the quota system and women's rights

By Waleed M. Sa'di

THE NATIONAL debate about whether to adopt the quota system for assuring women's representation in Parliament is now in full swing. Women's organisations are by and large demanding the application of the quota formula, with the only woman MP Tonjan Faisal raising doubts about the validity of the scheme and suggesting that its adoption would "not be in the interest of either the country or women themselves."

Deputy Faisal goes on to defend her opposition to the idea on the premise that unlike minority rights and the policy to allocate seats for them in Parliament, women's issues are "purely social, with no political dimensions" that would necessitate a legally binding affirmative policy on their behalf in either the Upper or Lower Houses of Parliament.

Before we go any further in this interesting debate, we must decide whether the application of the quota system whether for minorities or women is tenable under international human rights norms. I respectfully suggest that under the prevailing international human rights jurisprudence, the quota system is not acceptable for any group or gender of people.

It is one thing to take measures to ensure equality between the sexes, by first deleting all legislative provisions that discriminate against them and then by promoting and protecting their equal rights, and quite another to impose by law another discriminatory policy that aims to favour one Jordanian group over another on the basis of religion, sex, place or origin or economic or social status. To do so would make a mockery of the rule against discrimination between people on any grounds, including of course gender.

This does not mean that we should not all aspire to have greater women's representation, not only in Parliament but in all other walks of life. Women's representation is the same whether we are talking about Parliament or state bureaucracy or the private sector. To accomplish equal representation, we must endeavour to remain faithful to international human rights norms. For starters, let us look around and see what other nations, which made great strides in equating between the sexes, have done to increase women's presence in public and private life.

We cannot claim to be more progressive on this score than, for example, Sweden or Britain or the U.S. None of these countries ever adopted the policy of quota to improve the lot of women. What these and other democratic states have done in this context was to remove all social, economic and legal vestiges of discrimination against women and then embarked on an affirmative course that aimed, by democratic means, to enhance their role. This is what should be done and it behoves us all, whether we belong to women's organisations or human rights groups, to follow into the footsteps of other democratic states, in this endeavour.

Furthermore, I would like to take exception to Deputy Faisal's thesis that women issues are not political. Nothing could be further from the truth. The women's crusade for equality remains first and foremost a political struggle. There can be no doubt about the proposition that women have their own political agenda. The only question is whether they may pursue this agenda by democratic means, based on persuasion, or by the application of draconian laws that aim to work in their favour.

If, as the recent poll conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, 68 per cent of all those surveyed are in favour of a parliamentary quota for women (over 80 per cent of women and 58 per cent of men), then these large sectors of society are invited to translate their convictions into deeds when they go to the polls at the upcoming general elections by electing women to speak on their behalf in the legislature.

We certainly do not need laws that are discriminatory to improve women's presence in, for example, Parliament when so many of us can attain the very same objective by democratic means. Casting our votes at the ballot boxes is the most effective way to express ourselves on this issue, whether we wish to promote minority rights or women's rights.

The government can certainly take the lead in this direction by rectifying the grossly unfair lack of equilibrium between the sexes in the Senate. By a stroke of a pen, we can have equality between the genders in the Upper House. So why not start there and direct our campaign for equal representation where it is easiest to attain?

M. KAHIL



Untouched by economic boom, Israelis seek change

By Tova Cohen Reuter

OFKIM, Israel — Tamar Segron, a Moroccan immigrant, supports her five children on the less than \$500 a month she earns as a saleswoman in a shoe store.

Her husband lost his job in the winter when the human textiles factory where he worked shut down. Since then he has been unable to find work and will soon start collecting unemployment benefit.

Ms. Segron, 39, like many others in this dusty desert town called Ofakim (horizons), has benefited little from the economic boom Israel has undergone in the past five years.

She says she will vote for the hardline Likud Party in the May 29 elec-

tions, as she did in 1992. Security is her main concern. "I support the peace process, but with a little more security, without returning the Golan Heights and with a united Jerusalem as our capital," she says.

The economy is also a great concern for Ms. Segron, whose salary is less than her monthly mortgage payments.

"I feel like we are treading in the same place, it's impossible to advance. When Likud was in power (before 1992) I think I could afford more things."

Ofakim, not far from the border with Gaza, is one of many so-called development towns located in the more remote parts of Israel. The government provides subsidies for companies willing to open

factories in these towns.

Unemployment in Ofakim, a town of 23,000, is 12.4 per cent, double the national average.

According to a survey carried out by the Dahaf Institute, 58 per cent of voters in development towns will choose Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu for prime minister against 39 per cent for Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Labour.

Sixty-two per cent of Sephardic Jews, those with North African or Middle Eastern origins, will vote for Mr. Netanyahu. Most of Ofakim's residents are from North Africa.

The town has also absorbed 4,000 to 5,000 immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union in recent years.

Some of Ms. Segron's

neighbours believe the Labour Party has done a great deal to stimulate investment in the development towns and are staunch supporters of the left-leaning Labour.

"This finance minister (Abraham Shohat) has been very good. Look at all the work they have done on the roads," said Fortuna Serruya, who immigrated to Ofakim from Morocco in 1956 and has voted for Labour in every election.

Ms. Serruya owns her own clothing shop in the centre of town and while she says she will never be rich, she gets by.

Her friend Shalom Azoulay, 70 and retired, said he will only make up his mind on the day of the elections.

But this father of 11

remembers all too well the triple-digit inflation of the early 1980s. It was Labour, under the leadership of Mr. Peres, that implemented the drastic measures needed to stabilise the economy in 1985.

"Today inflation is only around 12, 14 per cent. The Labour Party has people of experience," he said. Labour has campaigned vigorously in the development towns. In an election advertisement it calls on voters to choose between investment in Kiryat Gat (a development town) or in Kiryat Arba (a Jewish settlement in the West Bank).

The Labour government has guaranteed U.S. chips maker Intel Corp a \$600 million subsidy for a \$1.6 billion facility it is build-

ing in Kiryat Gat.

This month Mr. Peres went to Ofakim to inaugurate a new plant for Israeli hi-tech company Eci Telecom, which will employ 150 people, absorbing many of the 230 left jobless when Uman shut its doors.

"Ofakim has an opportunity for a new life because of this government, which took a city and turned it around. It's not just industry, they have invested in other things, like education," said Israel Herman, head of the Jewish Agency's Economic Development section in Ofakim.

Four months ago Ofakim was a city in crisis. When Uman closed unemployment shot up to 20 per cent.

Yilmaz will not resign - for now

DIYARBAKIR (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said on Sunday his conservative government would remain in power for now despite losing the support of coalition partner Tansu Ciller.

"We will continue to be the government ... until a new government formula becomes clear," Anatolian news agency quoted Mr. Yilmaz as saying.

He challenged the Islam-based Welfare Party to carry out a threat to remove him from power with a censure motion. "I am not going to resign," he told the agency. Let all the ministers resign or let them table a censure motion.

The success of a motion against Mr. Yilmaz, not possible until after June 2 local elections, would depend on the stance of Mrs. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) that withdrew from an acrimonious union with Mr. Yilmaz Motherland Party (ANAP) early on Saturday.

The premier made the comments, his first in public on the deepening political crisis, shortly before leading cabinet members from both wings of the embittered alliance at a meeting in Diyarbakir, the mainly-Kurdish southeast's administrative capital, to debate the Kurdish problem.

Solutions to a 12-year-old armed Kurdish rebellion, as well as Turkey's troubled economy and tense relations with neighbour Greece, have all been sidelined by the government squabbling.

More than 19,000 people have died in a campaign by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) for autonomy or independence in southeast Turkey.

A senior Turkish official told the cabinet that almost 330,000 people have fled the fighting and poverty in the southeast.

A total of 324,916 people have migrated from the region. Some can return but it is impossible for most. Regional Governor Necati Bilgin said: He did not give a time frame.

Mr. Yilmaz invited journalists into the ministers' meeting to hear a security briefing from Mr. Bilgin.

The government said 918 villages and 1,767 hamlets had been fully or partially evacuated in 12 southeastern provinces.

Human rights groups charges that Turkish troops, hoping to deny the rebels food and shelter, are responsible for forcibly evacuating around 3,000 Kurdish villages in recent years.

Turkish officials say rebel attacks and economic hardship have forced the villagers from their homes.

Successful government's have tried only timidly to find a political solution to the conflict, preferring to leave the fight against Kurdish separatism in the hands of the influential military.

Mr. Yilmaz has vowed to slightly ease restrictions on personal rights and freedom of expression in the region but it is doubtful his tattered government will survive long enough to see through the planned reforms.

Mr. Yilmaz said he no longer felt bound by earlier policy agreements with fellow conservative Ciller. "We do not regard ANAP as being tied to the coalition protocol from now on."

Much of the discord between the leaders is due to the support of Mr. Yilmaz's party for a string of corruption charges against Ms. Ciller, Turkey's first-ever woman leader.

Political analysts say neither party leader wants to take the blame for breaking up the coalition and letting the Islamists into office.

Welfare planned to seek a confidence vote in parliament that could topple the government — formed in March to block welfare.

Anti-Western Welfare, which supports an Islamic regime in this NATO member country, led December elections but failed to garner majority in parliament to rule alone.

But Mr. Yilmaz said the coalition protocol signed between True Path and Motherland was no longer valid.

Iraqi dinar will gain - Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

reassuring for the Iraqi people.

Abdul Amir Al Anbari said the oil-for-food deal marked a new beginning in Iraq's relations with the United Nations.

"The agreement does not tackle the problems suffered by the Iraqi people for six years but it is reassuring for them," he told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Bayan from Paris, where he represents Iraq at the UNESCO.

"The importance of the agreement is not its financial

value but it represents a beginning for Iraq and the United Nations to work together in a spirit of cooperation to settle outstanding problems."

Around \$300 million from the oil proceeds will be earmarked for a U.N. fund to compensate those affected by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Smaller sums would also be going to pay for financing the mechanism.

Mr. Anbari said the deal, to be strictly monitored by the United Nations, would generate only about \$600 million for Iraq every three months.

Mubarak and Qadhafi hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

state," without specifying which ones.

Mr. Mubarak is also to meet in the first week of June with King Hussein and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Amman in a three-way summit.

The series of meetings "will bear fruit and there will soon be a larger summit to mark the turning of a page and adopt a global strategy of Arab co-operation," Al Ahram Al Misai said.

Egyptian media have said Mr. Mubarak and Col. Qadhafi would discuss the U.S. allegations that the Libyans are preparing the plant at Tarhuna, 55 kilometres southeast of Cairo, for production.

On Saturday night Col. Qadhafi repeated the Libyan position that the underground site is part of an irrigation project and said that U.S. photographs are faked.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said in Cairo in April he had shown Mr. Mubarak evidence of the plant. Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Musa, have said they needed more proof.

At a speech at the dinner Mr. Mubarak held in his honour on Saturday night, Col. Qadhafi said the United States was using a double standard, complaining about Tarhuna while ignoring the Israeli nuclear reactor at Dimona in the desert, widely believed to be the centre of a nuclear weapons programme.

No winner in Israeli TV debate

(Continued from page 1)

"I think it was equal. Bibi gave a good show. Television is definitely his medium," Yerah Tal, correspondent for the liberal daily Haaretz said, using Mr. Netanyahu's nickname. "In substance Peres was stronger."

But Mr. Netanyahu himself told reporters: "I think that with this debate we won the election."

Israel closed its borders to most Palestinians on Sunday to prevent fresh attacks by militants.

An Israeli official said the new measures included a ban on 7,000 Palestinians working in Israel. In addition, all trade between Israel and self-rule areas was banned.

Mr. Peres's age — he is 72 — and thrice-married Netanyahu's extramarital affair in 1993 were also highlighted in the debate.

Asked if he was too old to run, Mr. Peres said: "If you had to choose a model, and not a prime minister, age would be an issue. My health is perfect. My working ability

King: Jordan should be a model

(Continued from page 1)

the Arab Nation and the martyr of unity and freedom, and we remember the leader of the Great Arab Revolt, Sherif Hussein Ben Ali, who pursued the struggle and wrote a new chapter in the history of the nation," the King said.

The King said he had pledged to adhere to King Abdullah's will to do whatever possible for the country, to continue building and never to give up.

The King said that King Abdullah's efforts resulted in the rescue of Jerusalem in 1948 with the help of the Arab Jordanian army, which, he said, inherited the Great Arab Revolt.

The King said that he remains committed to the lega-

cy of King Abdullah and "to remaining steadfast on this land, defending it with our blood" so that it would stand up to the challenges.

The King, who disregarded a written speech and addressed the audience in unprepared remarks, pointed to the growth of Amman and other cities of the Kingdom in the past five decades, and dismissed what he described as the pessimists who doubt the ability of the Kingdom to prosper and achieve its goals.

The King made his remarks after a welcoming speech by Mr. Kabariti, who praised the King and his leadership of the country and pledged continued work in service of the Kingdom under his leadership.

Jordan, Israel PNA discuss trade

(Continued from page 1)

borders next month, a much-needed step to boost trade exchanges.

Israel has also limited the number of Jordanian trucks allowed to transport goods across the King Hussein Bridge linking Jordan with parts of the West Bank run by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), mainly to control security.

An Israeli-PNA phased-out free trade agreement also puts limits on foreign goods allowed into the West Bank and Gaza.

Out of 170 PNA-issued import licences in the last few

months, 70 went to Jordanians, many of them of Palestinian origin who are desperate to do business with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip because of historic and family links.

Amman is seeking to diversify markets to cushion the impact of any possible change in business with Iraq, its traditional partner.

Its trade with most Gulf countries has picked up over the last three years after ties improved from strains caused by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

is excellent. My thoughts are young. I know many people who are younger in age but their thoughts are old."

Asked whether his handling of an extramarital affair showed poor judgment, the square-jawed, 46-year-old Netanyahu drew on his experience as an army commander, saying: "I made decisions at a very young age as an officer beyond enemy lines, life-and-death decisions."

"Regarding that affair, I expressed deep regret. It hurt me, it hurt my wife and it hurt my family. It was a mistake. I was not a model. The future of Jerusalem due to be decided in up to three years of 'final status'

peace talks with the Palestinians begun this month, loomed large in the debate. Mr. Peres defended himself against Likud charges that he would divide Jerusalem, saying: "I will not let Jerusalem be divided."

But Mr. Netanyahu countered: "Mr. Peres, it doesn't matter what you say this evening. On the ground you are dividing Jerusalem."

The candidates eased into confrontation on a humorous note, off-camera.

"You have a stain on your suit," witnesses quoted Mr. Peres as telling Mr. Netanyahu, who quickly looked downwards. "Gotcha," Mr. Peres told him with a smile.

'Peace is not sum of agreements'

(Continued from page 1)

the agreement," Prince Hassan said.

He said the agreement might be followed by political attempts by the U.S. and France to move the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, but that there was little hope for that until after the Israeli elections.

The Crown Prince said researchers should try to answer several questions raised after the Lebanon incidents: Will the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks be separated? Will Europe seek a greater role in the peace process, especially in the Lebanese track? Will negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track continue to be trilateral, with the participation of the U.S. in Wye Plantation or will they become bilateral and move to the region?

He said the information media answer such questions — that the distribution of roles is being done outside the region and is done to serve the interests of the U.S. and the European Union rather than the interests of the region.

According to another media interpretation, Prince Hassan said, the region is facing a crucial crossroads similar to what happened at the time of World War I after the Sykes-Picot Treaty.

Based on that, it is said that Syria is looking for a regional role which will make it negotiate with the U.S. to guarantee its presence in the Lebanese scene and to expand its presence in Iraq, Jordan and the Palestinian territories, as stipulated by the "greater Syria" or "Fertile Crescent" theory.

Others, Prince Hassan continued, say that Syria is in fact negotiating wilyly to retrieve its occupied lands and to preserve its territorial integrity and dignity.

Prince Hassan warned that such theories undermine the desire for joint Arab action and encourage disunity, and consequently weaken the negotiating power of the Arab parties.

The Crown Prince said the Arab parties should give

priority to achieving a comprehensive peace which would give all involved equal opportunities for freedom, democracy, human rights, and honourable life.

He said the Palestinians did not succeed in establishing links between the Palestinians living in the territories and the diaspora, between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and between the transitional period and the final status, though such linkage derives from the spirit of the declaration of principles but is not stated in it clearly.

He added that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over the remaining issues require Arab coordination, noting that the recent Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian summit was meant to meet that need.

On the Syrian front, he said, more pressure might be practised on Syria to enter the negotiations seriously after Syria was made to feel that it is unable to protect Lebanon from Israeli violence and that Syria itself might be hit in Lebanon because of accusations that it supports terrorism and because of its close relations with Iran.

"Therefore the political analysis of the dynamism of the peace process is a product of many inter-related aspects and it is really saddening not to have a confident and active Arab position. It seems that the interests of the Arab countries are different and that they follow the rules of the zero-sum theory, i.e. what a country gains should be at the expense of another country's expense," Prince Hassan said.

He stressed that Jordan, Palestine and Egypt, which signed peace agreements with Israel, now have an interest in reaching an understanding and to cooperate to strengthen their negotiating position with Israel and with the world, which wants to enter the region in a new partnership.

This trilateral understanding can expand to include any Arab country willing to join it, be it Oman, Qatar, Tunisia or Morocco, he said.

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Khalaf: Two main constraints face Jordan's economic development

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Speakers at the first session of an international conference on Jordan's economy stressed the need for adjusting measures in the Kingdom's economic structure following the regional and international changes and called for boosting the liberalisation process and fighting the growing unemployment rate.

Addressing the opening session of the conference on behalf of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf highlighted the government's "overall reformative programme, which aims at giving Jordan access to the global market."

Officials and representatives of the public and private sectors, diplomats and academics as well as over 50 economists from the Arab World, the U.S. and Germany are attending the four-day conference, which opened Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Possible impacts of regional developments on Jordan's agriculture, industry, trade and tourism as well as water, transport and banking sectors, and the future

economic relations between the Kingdom, Palestine and Israel are the focus of the conference, organised by the Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Philadelphia University and entitled: "The Jordanian economy within its regional and international framework: A future outlook."

Giving a positive account of Jordan's achievements in the last 20 years and pointing to the government's ongoing efforts to issue new regulations to defeat monopoly, review the customs duties system, cut bureaucracy and provide protection to intellectual property rights, Dr. Khalaf said: "Our economy today is more self sufficient as foreign debt has been reduced and gross national product and savings have been growing."

But, while stressing the points of strengths, "which should be consolidated and built on," she also identified two main constraints to Jordan's economic development.

"Limited natural resources and limited national market are two main points of weakness which can be overcome, as the case of Japan shows, if we have a serious will,"

Dr. Khalaf pointed out.

At the external level, "though the external and internal levels can not be differentiated in modern economies," she said. Dr. Khalaf defined "globalisation" as a "most important and desirable phenomenon," and pointed to the government's efforts to join the World Trade Organisation and sign a membership agreement with the European Union (EU).

Reassuring those who fear that Jordanian small-scale economy might be marginalised in a global context, Dr. Khalaf said that "a small body can move faster" and can be managed more easily.

According to Al Urdun Al Jadid director, Hani Hourani, the setting up of a regional economic bloc is crucial to Jordan's economy.

"To review Jordanian economic realities, improve the government's performance, update laws and encourage the liberalisation process" meeting the private sector's essential needs are, in Dr. Hourani's opinion, the necessary steps to allow Jordan to enter the regional market.

"It is not possible for Jordan to expect continuous



Planning Minister Rima Khalaf presides over the opening session of a conference on the Jordanian economy Sunday. She is flanked by Manfred Haak (right), a senior member of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Fouad Sheikh Salem

(left), president of Philadelphia University. At the far left is Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (Petra photo)

aid from foreign or other Arab countries," Dr. Hourani said, addressing the opening session.

"We need to provide a favourable environment for foreign investment, and change should not be delayed any further," he stressed.

Dr. Hourani also called for fighting corruption and bureaucracy and stressed the need to find solutions to the increase of the unemployment rate.

"More than half of Jordan's population is under eighteen," Friedrich Ebert Foundation representative Manfred Haak said, "and all these people will be asking for jobs soon."

"The creation of new jobs is the key-measure to be taken," he said.

Besides the creation of new job opportunities, Dr. Haak also stressed the need for "strengthening regional economic cooperation and creating a regional market before entering the European

or global markets."

"Jordan built a remarkable model of democracy, and must now face the challenge of economic globalisation," Dr. Haak said.

"Market economy is not necessarily the best way to provide people with what they need, but today's globalisation imposes an inevitable process of liberalisation," he explained.

President of Philadelphia University, Fouad Sheikh Salem, pointed out that global economy is "dominated by regional groupings created on the basis of the forming members' interests," and stressed the need for "boosting the economic relations between Israel, Palestine and Jordan."

The opening session was followed by the first working session, focusing on "international economic changes and their effects on the Arab economies," with papers presented by Joudah

Abdul Khalik, professor at Cairo University, Tayseer Abdul Jaber, former minister and economic advisor, and German professor Klaus Peter Kisker.

In his working paper, Professor Kisker described the external factors which will "highly influence the economic development of Jordan in the future," and pointed to "some grave mistakes made during the reconstruction process in East Germany and during the German unification."

Warning Jordanians about the negative impacts of world economy cycles, Professor Kisker said "22 million people in the EU - seven million at least in Germany - are unemployed and, according to an

International Labour Organisation report, the number of unemployed rose to 120 million worldwide, plus 700 million underemployed people."

"So far the effects on the Jordanian economy were limited, but, as a consequence of globalisation, the world economy cycles will soon become apparent," Professor Kisker said.

Monday's programme will focus on "the likely impact of regional developments on the major sectors of the Jordanian economy," and it will be divided into four sessions: Water and agriculture, industry and transportation, banking and trade, and tourism.

Iran relaxes free trade zone exchange rules

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's parliament has approved amendments to a law aimed at relaxing tough foreign exchange rules in free trade zones set up to attract much-needed foreign investment.

The amendments, which appeared to place some restrictions on what had been proposed by a parliament bill in April, were introduced by the clergy-based Guardian Council, which vets parliamentary laws for conformity with Islam and the constitution.

The amendments, published by the official news agency IRNA, stipulated that Iranian banks set up in the free zones should be 51 per cent owned by the government and that opening Iranian or foreign banks in the zones should be proposed

by the central bank and approved by the cabinet.

IRNA said the amendments stipulated that cabinet ministers should "introduce regulations on foreign exchange parity rates and procedures to enforce state punishment concerning contraband goods, and smuggled hard currencies at free trade zones."

The parliament had in April adopted a bill dispensing with Iran's fixed rate of 3,000 rials to the dollar in the zones, allowing exchange dealings at a free market rate. One U.S. dollar currently fetches about 4,000 rials on the black market.

The bill allowed the free transfer abroad and into Iran of hard currency from the trade zones, but transfers into

the zones from the rest of Iran will still be under tight state control.

It also provides for the setting up of foreign banks and offshore units of Iranian banks in the zones.

The Guardian Council's amendments said that the government should own 51 per cent of the Iranian banks in the zones and that "opening of the foreign bank branches and founding credit institutes, either Iranian or foreign, and their branches at free trade zones should be proposed by the central bank of Iran and approved by cabinet ministers."

It said banks would then be "entitled to deal with banking activities within the framework of Islamic banking criteria."

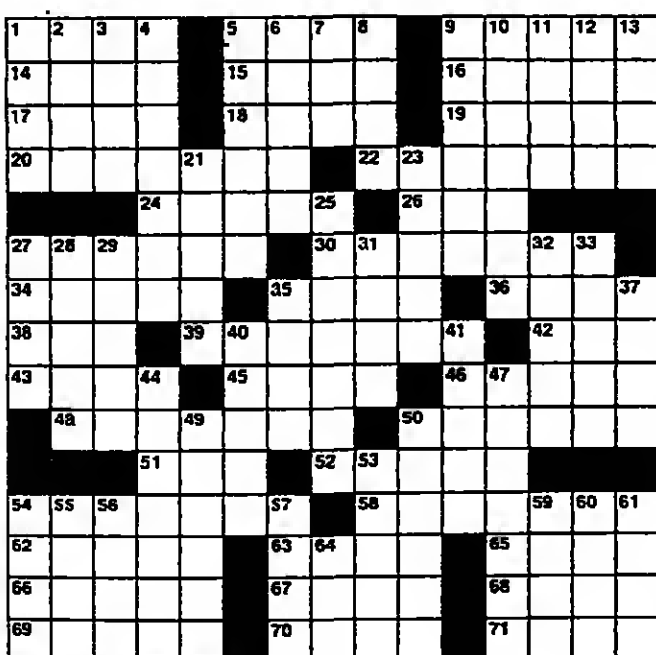
THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson

ACROSS

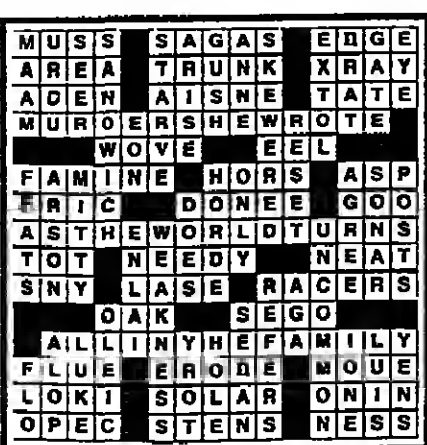
- 1 Ancient idol
- 5 Intervals
- 9 Appaloosa
- 14 First name in song
- 15 Kelp
- 16 Be of use
- 17 Snorkler's realm
- 18 Bread portion
- 19 Within the law
- 20 Pancho Villa, for one
- 22 Severe
- 24 Strains
- 26 Kinsman; abbr.
- 27 Angelou's field
- 30 Elaborate pretense
- 34 Little hooter?
- 35 Bok — (Chinese cabbage)
- 36 Candied items
- 38 "Sturm — Drang"
- 39 Contrary to
- 42 "O Sole —"
- 43 Regretted
- 45 Vaulted alcove
- 46 Lagoon's boundary
- 48 Quandary
- 50 Incinerated
- 51 — whiz!
- 52 Public spat
- 54 Big name in football
- 58 After awhile
- 62 Painful gente
- 63 Inkblot
- 65 Commotion
- 66 Expressed by word of mouth
- 67 Wash
- 68 Omnium-galherum
- 69 Make one's day
- 70 Churchill's successor
- 71 Hammer head

DOWN

- 1 Road shoulder
- 2 Aweather's opposite
- 3 Trek of game ahow



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- 4 Pirate, Jean
- 5 Milky Way
- 6 Without peer
- 7 Tom Kite's org.
- 8 Secure
- 9 Tether kin
- 10 Cover the surface of
- 11 Fury
- 12 Thailand
- 13 Fashion magazine
- 21 Magna —
- 23 Clinic pics?
- 25 Religious nita
- 27 Decant
- 28 Admit to
- 29 Forelather
- 31 Strop
- 32 Friend of Pythias
- 33 Zola
- 35 Good Hope
- 37 Vended
- 40 Old Greek medicine man
- 41 Sarcastic jibe
- 44 Easy lope
- 47 Nest's place
- 49 Rock group member
- 50 Defeated
- 53 Garlic portion
- 54 Be gloomy
- 55 Birthstone
- 56 First Chinese capital
- 57 Competent
- 59 Function
- 60 Cartoon dog
- 61 Lunchtime
- 64 Fellow

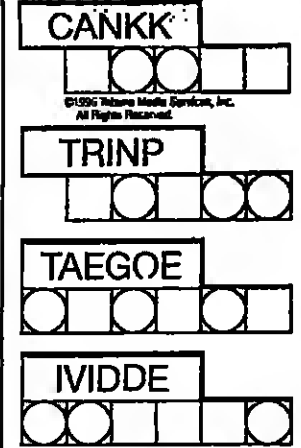
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"If I follow a strict diet and jog 5 miles every morning, I'll live longer—but I won't want to!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A _____ OF _____

Yesterday's Jumble: CREEL MOUSE EMBRYO UNWISE
Answer: When he finished counting he ended up with — SOME SUM.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argilion

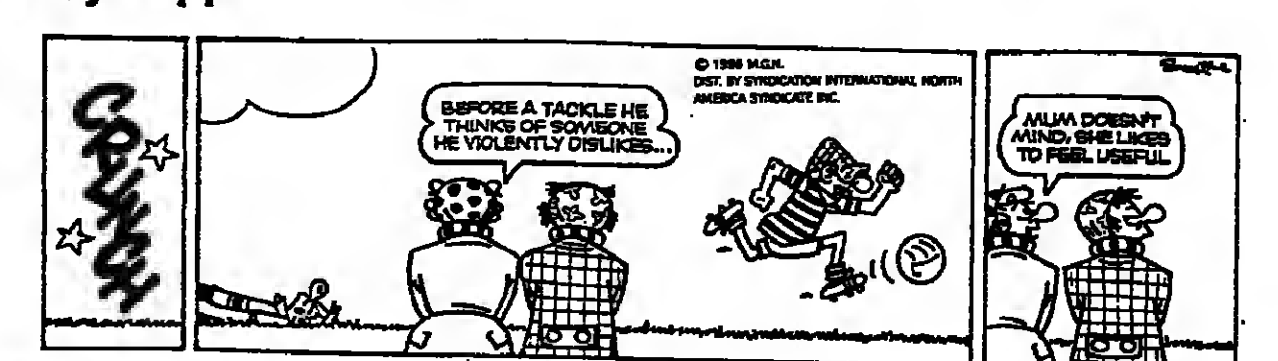


WHAT THE PARK TURNED INTO DURING LUNCH TIME.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MAY 27, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have fine ideas which can be made to work today, particularly since you are dynamic at this time. You can handle any situation which has developed from your career activities with the help of an expert.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Try to do what the one you love desires of you today, and you will be able to please this person. A clever fellow associate comes into your life who has the ability to advise you about any business difficulties.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Sit down with outside fellow associates and plan the next few days dealings wisely, and as a result you can become more successful in the eyes of your loved ones and especially the bigwig whom you regularly consult.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get an early start on whatever career activities which you have to do and will gain the desired results which you have been seeking for some time. This time will be special for your loved ones if you keep communications open.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take your finest talents to bigwigs and commercialise well upon them, so that your efforts will be recognised by those in authority. Be especially happy tonight with your loved ones and mate for the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get all arranged at home in a constructive manner today and begin the new week on a bright note. Raise your level of consciousness in terms of your career activities, and you will be rewarded by those in authority.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get your desk career activities handled in a wise manner this morning and by doing so you can insure a better existence for yourself and your loved ones for the days ahead. This is a good day to visit your close friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to clear up last remains of any old matters before you proceed upon any new outlets which will mean a new beginning for you at this time. This evening will allow you to visit with close friends and have some fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Listen to what long-time fellow associates have to suggest to you today and by acting upon the information provided you will have greater benefits for not only yourself, but for your loved ones for the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have the right ideas how best to gain your fondest desires, so follow through with hunches, since they have not proven to be wrong before. Feel contented this evening in the surroundings of your loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have set up a new course of action for yourself today and you should not allow any gossip or misinformation deter you from achieving what goals you have set for yourself for the days ahead with some assistance.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Trust associates today since you have the suspicion that your own judgement is not as usual and thereby you not make any mistake which could be costly to your reputation and put in an advise career position.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

Foreign firms contact Iraq about deals

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq and foreign firms have begun making contacts to discuss sales of food and medicine under the deal signed last week with the United Nations, officials and diplomats said Sunday.

Delegations from Russia, France and Turkey are expected in Baghdad in the next few days to discuss such sales with the commerce ministry, a foreign diplomat added.

Indian businessmen dealing in medicine and other items were currently in

Baghdad to explore possible deals, the Indian embassy also said.

Iraq has also asked the Gulf state of Qatar to agree to stockpile products which would be sent there when Iraqi ports are filled to capacity, the official newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said.

It added the request was made by an Iraqi delegation which recently visited Qatar, one of the few Gulf countries it enjoys good relations with.

"Iraqi facilities are ready to receive shipments of basic products," Transport Minister

Abmad Muratada told the official Iraqi News Agency, adding Iraq's Gulf ports can unload 30,000 tonnes of goods per day.

Iraq and the United Nations struck a deal on May 20 allowing Baghdad to export \$2 billion of oil over six months in exchange for much-needed food and medicine, but under strict controls.

It was the first easing of the sanctions which were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Under the deal, Iraq can

use \$1.2 billion of the six-monthly proceeds to buy humanitarian supplies, with the rest going to a U.N. compensation fund for victims of the 1991 Gulf war as well as U.N. operations in Iraq.

A delegation from the Iraqi-French Economic Cooperation Association, which includes delegates from French firms, is to visit Iraq on June 6 to sign an agreement between the two countries' chambers of commerce, newspapers said.

Turkish officials are also

expected in Baghdad next month to discuss ways of boosting trade and industrial cooperation, they added. Trade between Iraq and Turkey hit a high of \$3 billion in 1988.

Commerce Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh Sunday opened a Slovak trade fair attended by seven companies selling heart medicine and other items. "The Iraqi market will be open to Slovak products," the minister said.

The associations of Iraqi and Egyptian industries last week signed a cooperation agreement following a visit by a delegation of 20 Egyptian companies specialising in food and medicine.

Iraqi newspapers did not mention upcoming visits to Baghdad by foreign oil firms.

but officials here said Iraq never broke off contacts with the companies it dealt with before the invasion of Kuwait.

Under the deal, oil sales and humanitarian purchases must be approved by the U.N. committee charged with applying the sanctions against Iraq.

Exporters must also first submit a contract for approval by the sanctions committee through a representative of their country at the United Nations.

If there is a deal, the committee will authorise the opening of a letter of credit in the name of the company, which cannot collect the amount until the delivery is made and checked by U.N. inspectors in Iraq.

Lloyd's hopes revised plan will help names

reinsuring old liabilities into a new company called Equitas has been lower by 900 million pounds (\$1.35 billion) from earlier estimates to one billion pounds.

At the same time, an out of court settlement offer to litigating names has been raised by 300 million pounds (\$450 million) to 3.1 billion (\$4.6 billion) and includes contribution from auditors of over 100 million (\$150 million).

Equitas and the settlement offer are vital components of the Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal plan to ensure the market can continue trading.

Lloyd's hopes that if names can afford to and agree to pay a final bill reinsuring all liabilities up to 1993 into Equitas, the market will avoid bankruptcy and names will end litigation.

How much names are prepared to pay and the size of the settlement offer could make or break the plan when names receive their final bills next month and vote on the proposals in July.

In a letter which members will receive in the next few days, Mr. Rowland explains that the revisions to the cost of Equitas have helped boost the size of the settlement offer, but emphasises this revised package is the final version of the recovery plan.

He warns that recent litigation has greatly strengthened Lloyd's ability to require names to meet their obligations and adds current legal action will not affect the offer.

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's of London improved its hail-out offer to disgruntled investors by more than a billion pounds (\$1.5 billion) Friday in a bid to save the world's oldest insurance market from bankruptcy.

Chairman David Rowland told reporters it was the final offer. Names, as the investors are called, will vote on it in July.

"We now know infinitely more about the assets and liabilities of the society," Mr. Rowland said. "Some of the less palatable elements have been made more equitable to members."

Losses of eight billion pounds (\$12 billion) announced over the last five years have embroiled Lloyd's in a host of law suits from members who had underwritten the risk of pledging their entire personal wealth to the insurance market.

Several names' action groups said the improved deal had increased the chances of an end to litigation, but were determined to keep up the pressure for more money.

"We're a lot closer now than we've ever been to reaching a settlement," said Christopher Messer, of the Janson Green Names' action group. "Chances of acceptance have increased substantially, although some details still need to be addressed."

The association of Lloyd's members said that a large number of members will remain financially ruined and disgraced.

Mr. Rowland said that the final cost to names of

DAILY BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

Free Zones Corporation reports higher revenue in 1995

☆☆ REVENUE COLLECTED by the Free Zones Corporation totalled JD 4.7 million last year, 12 per cent higher than the JD 4.2 million collected in 1994, the outgoing director-general of the corporation, Falah Al Qudah, has said. He added that 25 new investors had set up industries at the free zones in 1995 noting that the number since the corporation was established until the end of 1994 was only 39 industries. The number of new investors in the commercial sector was 87 in addition to the 88 investors in the "car exhibition" sector.

Mr. Qudah reviewed the technical projects that were implemented at the free zones in 1995 and pointed out that a building for clearing companies at the Zarqa free zone was completed and that work has started on developing 1,200 dunums of land for the second phase of expansion. Studies were also completed to set up a customs centre at the eastern entrance. In addition, four ornamental gates were built on the entrances and exists of the free zone in Zarqa.

Concerning the Aqaba free zone, studies were completed and work has started to develop additional areas on the road to the airport. As for the free zone at the Queen Alia International Airport, Mr. Qudah said that work was continuing to establish the zone on a 15-dunum area and that the project is expected for completion by the end of 1996. He added that it has been decided to lease an additional 100 dunums in the area for establishing highly technical industries. At the Sahah Industrial City, work is underway to set up a free zone there to serve the investors and enable them to benefit from the incentives and exemptions provided by the corporation.

According to the annual report, goods weighing 667,811 tonnes entered the free zones last year compared to a volume of 536,646 tonnes in 1994. Goods exported from the free zones to the local market or the neighbouring markets amounted to 698,489 tonnes in 1995, 20 per cent higher than the 581,725 tonnes in 1994. Statistics on the number of customs documents processed and settled by the corporation, the annual report gave a total of 33,665 in 1995 compared to a 26,425 documents in 1994.

Mr. Qudah, who was retired last week and will be succeeded by Marzuq Al Hadid, expected the new law on the free zones to be issued this year as it has been forwarded to the Council of Ministers for endorsement. He pointed out that the new law simplified the procedures, expanded decentralisation and gave new incentives and exemptions to investors. The new law, Mr. Qudah said, closed the gaps and clarified the ambiguity that appeared in the current law. Under the new law, the private sector is allowed to set up industrial and specialised commercial free zones (Al Aswaq).

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (May 20 - May 24, 1996)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit appreciated moderately against other major currencies last week. It ended the week 1.02, per cent, 0.60 per cent and 0.07 per cent higher against the yen, the mark and sterling, respectively.

The U.S. unit appreciated marginally against the yen and the mark Monday 20/5/1996, while it depreciated slightly against sterling. The appreciation of the dollar was mainly attributed to the large decline of Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. April, in comparison to last year. On the other hand, the dollar came under pressure on rumours of profit-taking and of selling by Japanese exporters.

The dollar rose noticeably against the mark and marginally against sterling and the yen Tuesday. The dollar appreciated following remarks from Bundesbank officials indicating the possibility of lowering the repo rate in the near future, from its 3.3 per cent level. This prompted heavy dollar buying by U.S. funds, in addition, the dollar received support against other major currencies following comments from the U.S. deputy treasury secretary, who maintained that the Clinton Administration prefers a strong dollar.

The dollar continued appreciating moderately against sterling and the mark Wednesday, while it stabilised against the yen. Analysts indicated that the dollar rose against the mark after investment banks, commercial banks and U.S. funds took long dollar positions when it went below 1.54 marks. Traders said that the dollar appreciated against the mark, despite the fact that expectations of a reduction in Germany's repo rate faded following the release of German M3 figures. Official statistics showed that M3 grew at an annualised rate of 11.2 per cent in April, which was lower than its 12.3 per cent growth in March. However, analysts considered this decrease in M3 growth to be insufficient to prompt the Bundesbank to lower the repo rate in the near term.

The U.S. unit depreciated slightly against other major currencies Thursday. Analysts indicated that the dollar went down on profit-taking. On the other hand, the dollar resumed its appreciation noticeable against the yen and marginally against the mark and sterling, at the end of the week. This latest dollar rally against the yen was prompted by remarks from a Japanese finance ministry official saying that the appropriate dollar/yen exchange rate would be around 130 yen to the dollar, which encouraged traders to cover their short dollar positions.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.5432 marks, 107.90 yen and at \$1.5120 to the pound.

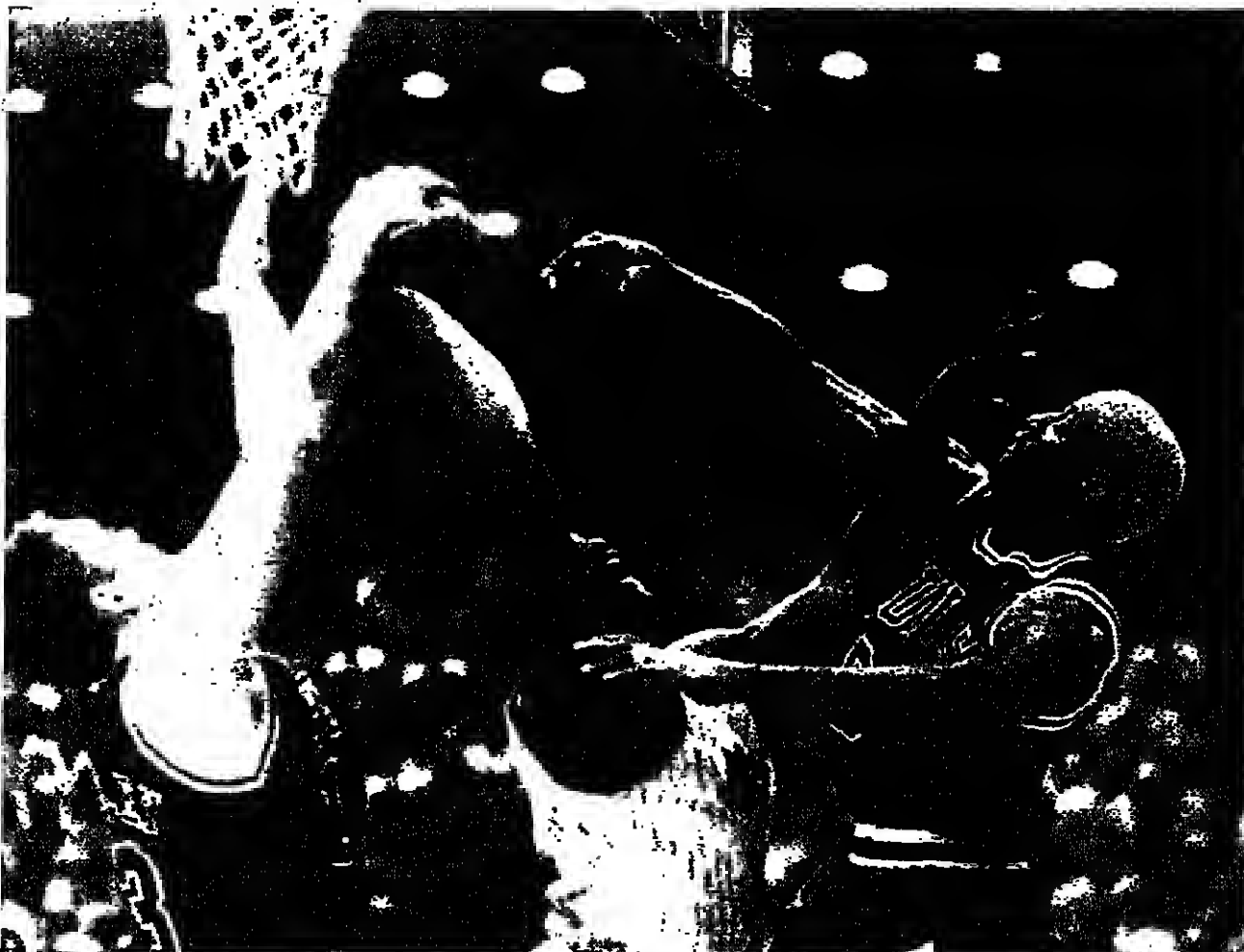
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: May - 26 - 1996

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7080	0.7100
Sterling Pound	1.0700	1.0754
Deutsche Mark	0.4581	0.4604
Swiss Franc	0.5583	0.5611
French Franc	0.1353	0.1360
Japanese Yen*	0.6553	0.6586
Dutch Guilder	0.4096	0.4116
Swedish Krona	-	-
Italian Lira*	0.0434	0.0456
Belgian Franc	-	-

* Per 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CHARTER AMMAN - SPONSORED										
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 26/05/1996										
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / S	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OFFER PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
280.000	205.000	ANAB BANK	12.2	1.55	4	260	63360	226.50	225.00	1.50
3.800	3.250	BANK OF JORDAN	12.3	0.00	2	400	1364	2.41	3.42	-
1.500	1.020	MID-EAST INV.BK.	68.3	0.00	4	2000	7080	1.05	1.04	-0.01
2.700	2.300	INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK.	5.3	6.05	5	1750	4022	2.30	2.30	-
8.300	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.0	3.09	7	2250	9904	4.31	4.47	1.16
3.040	2.600	JOR. KOWAT BANK	29.3	0.00	9	925	2321	2.80	2.80	-
1.510	1.510	JOR. KOWAT BANK	8.7	7.29	9	6500	6285	1.97	1.96	-0.01
4.180	1.303	JOR. KOWAT BANK	19.0	0.00	7	2450	5285	1.98	1.98	-
4.650	2.150	UNION PR. SAV. INV.	18.5	0.00	3	1300	2704	2.19	3.08	1.08
3.930	2.420	BEJLA AL-FAL (BEJLA)	1.7	5.40	8	1700	4698	2.79	2.78	-0.01
1.230	1.230	BEJLA AL-FAL (BEJLA)	1.7	5.40	8	1700	4698	2.79	2.78	-0.01
5.850	4.400	ARAB BANKING CO.	24.6	0.00	40	45037	24625	1.55	1.53	-0.02
1.930	1.070	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	10	2572	3108	1.23	1.20	-0.03
BANK SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 178.83 CHG: -0.27 107 69174 144183										
4.200	4.000	JERUSALEM INSUR.	12.0	4.54	1	3250	24333	4.20	4.41	2.1
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 124.68 CHG: -0.51 1 3250 14333										
1.960	1.530	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.3	7.50	21	9422	15130	1.61	1.60	-0.01
2.980	2.430	SHIPPING LINES	10.3	8.14	1	350	823	2.44	2.45	0.01
2.730	1.190	SAFTI. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	11	3350	4949	1.45	1.43	-0.02
1.160	1.160	REAL ESTATE INV.	21.3	3.32	2	1500	3450	1.99	1.98	-0.01
3.660	3.090	ARAB INV. INV. CO.	12.5	6.35	9	1950	6130	3.16	3.16	-
2.570	1.070	UNIFIED CO.	20.8	4.84	49	1675	24529	3.00	2.06	-0.94
1.200	1.200	UNION LAND DEV.	2	0.00	2	12500	16218	1.06	1.07	0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 116.33 CHG: +0.10 95 48477 79257										
33.080	18.950	JOR. TOBACCO & CIG.	16.9	3.88	4	99	2066	19.95	20.95	1.00
1.530	1.170	ATFARKER	9	0.00	4	5320	6550	1.25	1.26	0.01
4.120	3.390	JOR. CHEST FACT.	19.9	0.00	8	1083	8764	3.50	3.48	-0.02
3.750	2.900	JOR. PROSPERITY MINES	33.1	0.00	1	400	1332	3.12	3.08	-0.04
5.960	4.750	ARAB PETROLEUM CO.	16.3	3.75	6	1420	7891	5.24	5.34	1.10
11.150	8.900	JOR. PETROLEUM	15.5	5.94	7	557	3625	10.10	10.10	-
1.000	1.400	WOLAN INDUSTRIES	64.4	0.00	12	2600	3733	1.31	1.31	-
4.870	3.650	ARAB FARM. MFG.	21.4	5.13	33	11143	43769	3.86	3.90	0.04
2.660	2.000	JOR. PAPER MFG.	11.6	5.71	7	2000	4196	2.05	2.10	0.05
2.600	1.620	RAJIA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	17	4700	9254	1.68	1.76	0.08
8.550	4.710	JAR ALDORA INV. INV.	15.9	2.45	3	160	871	3.75	5.80	2.05
6.460	4.800	ARAB ALUM. IND.	7.1	8.40	3	450	2342	4.90	4.76	-0.14
1.740	1.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	16	22250	18455	1.66	1.66	-
1.540	1.240	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	8.6	8.23	21	7400	9376	1.28	1.26	-0.02
1.450	1.450	NATIONAL INDS.	12.7	6.58	11	13800	13868	1.66	1.66	-
2.850	1.060	INTERNED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	62	34520	36897	1.41	1.48	0.07
2.330	1.930	JOR. ROPEWORK IND.	9	0.00	19	8350	7250	1.13	1.14	0.01
4.250	2.540	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	77.7	0.00	4	1500	6410	3.09	2.94	-0.15
5.400	5.130	ARAB WOOD IND. UNICO	19.1	1.87	1	100	535	5.25	5.35	0.10
5.300	2.850	ARAB WOOD IND. UNICO	20.1	0.00	17	6050	6035	1.09	1.14	0.05
1.840	1.840	ARAB WOOD IND. UNICO	28.8	0.00	18	5000	7681	1.47	1.54	0.07
2.580	1.080	ARAB PAPER MFG.	28.8	0.00	18	5000	7681	1.47	1.54	0.07
3.640	2.380	UNIV. WOOD IND.	28.8	0.00	18	5000	7681	1.47	1.54	0.07
2.480	1.380	JOR. WOOD INDUSTRIES	20.8	0.00	20	6450	47267	2.56	2.58	0.02
2.000	1.000	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	32.1	0.00	20	6450	10450	1.66	1.66	-
2.610	1.940	KL - 3RD READY WEAR	9	0.00	5	968	1914	2.00	1.96	-0.04
1.620	1.130	INTL. TOBACCO	31.1	0.00	54	35500	46194	1.28	1.32	0.04
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 114.91 CHG: -0.05 428 199840 319935										
GRAND TOTAL										
INDEX: 146.92 CHG: -0.14 631 320741 557607										
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 26/05/1996										
0.870	0.610	CENTRAL CH. STORAGE	26.1	0.00	1	250	163	0.57	0.65	0.02
0.900	0.700	JOR. TRADE FAC.	20.0	0.00	6	6500	4125	0.75	0.75	-
1.000	0.960	UNION INV. FID.	77.5	0.00	7	1341	415	0.81	0.81	-
1.890	1.630	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	34	31560	35422	0.80	0.80	-
1.710	1.340	JOR. INV. MFG. - JORD.	9	0.00	17	66500	41865	0.60	0.63	0.03
1.340	1.340	ARAB FOOD & MFG.	9	0.00	3	1300	923	0.71	0.71	-
2.000	1.380	WALL. CHELONINE	2	0.00	12	32800	8240	1.59	1.60	0.01
0.900	0.820	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	36	27498	22766	0.78	0.79	0.01
1.100	0.700	WALL. CHELONINE	2	0.00	11	5480	6178	0.95	0.95	-
1.340	0.800	JORDANIAN STEEL	2	0.00	11	630	383	0.55	0.70	0.15
1.030	0.670	MID-EAST INVT. 75%	2	0.00	1	3033	3032	1.24	1.24	-
1.050	1.000	UNION COBALT 75%	2	0.00	11	3900	1431	0.74	0.75	0.01
1.030	0.680	RAJIA FARM. 50%	20.0	0.00	11	6500	3280	0.89	0.89	-
1.070	0.820	INDS. CERAMIC	2	0.00	4	1400	1801	0.94	0.93	-0.01
1.050	0.880	X. TEXTILE MFG.	2	0.00	6	10500	2943	0.85	0.86	0.01
0.970	0.730	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
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0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
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0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
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0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	125838	0.71	0.70	-0.01	
0.710	0.710	WALL. POULTRY 75%	0.00	42	180800	12				



Orlando Magic centre Shaquille O'Neal is double-teamed by Chicago Bulls defenders Luc Longley (1) and Dennis Rodman during first half action of the Eastern Conference finals (Reuters photo)

Bulls crush Magic to go up 3-0

ORLANDO (R) — Scottie Pippen scored 27 points and the Chicago Bulls smothered the undermanned Orlando Magic 86-67 Saturday to move within one win of the NBA finals for the fourth time in six years.

With teammate Michael Jordan scoring a quiet 17 points, Pippen came through to put Chicago up 3-0 in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals.

"I felt great today," said Pippen. "I had a good rhythm on my shot. It seemed like no one else could get anything going so I was a little bit aggressive."

The Bulls limited the fizzling Magic to just three points in the first 9½ minutes of the fourth quarter and to the second-lowest playoff point total since the advent of the shot clock.

"For us to have two points in nine minutes is ridiculous, but you have to give them credit," said Orlando's Jon Koncak. "They're swarming us right now, and we're just not able to respond."

Chicago has made a rout out of an anticipated showdown between the former three-peat NBA champion Bulls and last season's conference champion Magic.

The Magic, who lost last year's NBA championship series in four games to the Houston Rockets, are on the verge of suffering their third playoff sweep in three years.

"We don't want to get swept," said Magic guard Penny Hardaway, who scored 18 points. "We felt the feeling of getting swept before. Everybody still has the fire. It's just if we have enough bodies to play."

No team has ever won a best-of-seven series after losing the first three games. "We really put their backs to the wall now," said Jordan.

Game 4 is Monday at Orlando, where the Magic have lost just five games this season — two of them to the Bulls.

Shaquille O'Neal added 17 points for the Magic, who were again without injured forward Horace Grant, lost sixth man Brian Shaw with Neck Spasms that developed overnight and saw guard Nick Anderson suffer a severe wrist injury in the fourth quarter.

"When I met Brian Hill before the game at halfcourt to shake hands, I asked him what next can go wrong for his basketball club," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "I guess he found out today."

Orlando trailed 48-38 at halftime and fell behind 53-40 1:16 into the third quarter.

But the Bulls went scoreless for more than six minutes and the Magic crawled back with a 9-0 run capped by a Dennis Scott three-pointer



Chicago Bulls guard Michael Jordan (right) drives to the basket past Orlando Magic guard Nick Anderson during first quarter action of the Eastern Conference finals game between the clubs May 25 (Reuters photo)

that cut the deficit to four points.

Pippen, shooting less than 39 per cent in the post-season, took over, scoring eight of Chicago's 10 points in the final 4:39 of the period, stemming Orlando's rally.

"I'm just trying to take advantage of my matchup," said Pippen, who shot 11-of-14 from the field and added seven assists. "My shot was falling."

Jordan shot just 5-of-14 from the field and was on the bench during Pippen's hot streak.

"If one has a problem, the other steps up," Jackson said. "It's just the leadership of this ballclub. They support each other very well in the leadership role on this club."

The Bulls took a 63-57 lead

into the final quarter when Orlando went ice cold, managing just one hoop — a tip-in by O'Neal — over the tip-in by O'Neal — over the tip-in by O'Neal.

Chicago built its lead to 70-57 with 8:53 left. Jordan left for a minute with an ankle injury midway through the period, then left for good with about four minutes to go.

The Bulls never missed him as Longley and Dennis Rodman each made three free throws. Pippen sank a three-pointer and Steve Kerr added a jumper and three-pointer to build the margin to 20 points in the final minute.

"We held them to 15 points in the third quarter and got ourselves within reach," said Orlando coach Brian Hill. "Our guys got some pretty good looks at the basket in the fourth period, but it just

wasn't there offensively."

Rodman again controlled the boards with 16 rebounds and added nine points. Luc Longley scored 10 points for Chicago, which held a 45-34 rebounding edge.

Anderson, shut down in the first two games in Chicago, scored 14 points for Orlando, which shot 34 per cent (26-of-77) from the field to Chicago's 44 per cent (30-of-69).

X-rays found no break in Anderson's injured right wrist, and it was to be checked again on Sunday. Scott had another terrible game with seven points on 1-of-9 shooting. He is 5-of-21 in the series.

O'Neal grabbed 12 rebounds but was 1-of-9 from the line as both teams struggled with their free throws.

FC Kaiserslautern win German Cup

BERLIN (AP) — FC Kaiserslautern Saturday erased some of the sting of being relegated in the Bundesliga by capturing the German Cup with a 1-0 triumph over Karlsruher SC.

Martin Wagner, a former German national team player, took advantage of a collapse in the Karlsruhe wall to drive in a 17-metre (51 feet) free kick in the 42nd minute.

The midfielder's low powerful shot flew through a hole in the wall and between the legs of stunned goalie Claus Reitmaier, who was blinded by his teammates until the last minute.

Kaiserslautern, the more aggressive of the two teams, won the second German Cup in their history at Berlin's Olympia Stadium. The 77,000 in attendance saw a match played in pouring rain.

"They just fought harder — they deserved to win," said Karlsruhe's South African striker, Sean Dundee.

Kaiserslautern played shorthanded after the 73rd minute, when 1990 World Cup hero Andy Brehme was ejected for the second of two fouls on Jens Novotny.

The shorthanded victory, over a desperate Karlsruhe playing with four forwards, ensured Kaiserslautern of a spot in

European competition next season despite playing in Germany's second division.

Kaiserslautern, a founding member of the Bundesliga, stunned the German soccer public by being relegated for the first time in the league's 33-year-history.

"I think we've won back the sympathy of the public," Wagner said. "Everybody has to look inside of themselves and see what they did to contribute to relegation."

Karlsruhe, which lost a UEFA Cup berth on the final round of the Bundesliga, will be shut out of a major European competition.

That's likely to cost the team the services of diminutive star Thomas Haessler, the German national team player, who said he will move to a team that plays internationally.

Novotny almost gave Karlsruhe the lead just 35 seconds into the match with a shot from 14 metres (42 feet), but the team was clearly outplayed in the second half.

Kaiserslautern also announced Thursday that Eckhard Krautzan, the interim coach, has signed a one-year contract with the team.

Lewis says 'I can beat anybody'

EUGENE (R) — A confident Carl Lewis said on Saturday "there are not three people in the world who can beat me in any event that I compete in."

A buoyant spring has boosted the confidence level of the eight-times Olympic champion to the point that he is strongly considering competing in four events — but probably won't — at the Atlanta Olympics if he qualifies at next month's U.S. Olympic trials.

He plans to compete in the 100 metres, 200 metres and long jump at the trials but may forsake the 200 for a spot in the 400 metres relay at the games.

Strong showing in last week's Atlanta grand prix and in the Mount San Antonio College relays in California last month "have restored my greatest asset, and that is my confidence," Lewis said on the eve of the Prefontaine Classic Grand Prix Classic, where he was scheduled to run a 200 metres.

"My confidence is back, supreme again. I feel, like I can beat anybody in any race."

That worries his competitors, Lewis said.

"People who were stepping on the track last year saying 'Carl is finished' are stepping on the track now saying 'damn it, he can win,'" Lewis said.

But as late as last autumn even Lewis was having doubts about his chances of competing in the 100 and 200 metres at the Atlanta Games, which probably will be the last major championship meeting of his illustrious career.

"There were times when I said, 'you can do the long jump and relay, that's OK,'" the 34-year-old Lewis said. "Now, I know I can do them all."

A last-place finish in the qualifying round of the 60 metres at the U.S. Indoor Championships in March that prompted many to write him off as an Olympic threat "was totally overrated," Lewis said.

"I was 11 pounds (5 kg) heavier, we were still lifting weights and I didn't want to run it," Lewis said. "I knew that would not be my defining race. But it made me stop and ask, 'what are you doing wrong?'"

For one thing, Lewis and his longtime coach, Tom Tellez, discovered that the former world record holder could improve on his start.

Leaving the starting blocks has never been the highlight of a Lewis race — he has always run people down — but Tellez figured a slight change would be beneficial.

"Coach Tellez suggested that I lean forward more when I was in the set position," Lewis said.

Tellez also had Lewis move the setting of his starting block up a half-inch (1 cm). The result has been a quicker first step for Lewis, and a faster transition to his running position.

"A lot of young guys who stay low (in their first steps) are going to get out faster, but they are going to pay the price in the end," Lewis said.

JSF Shield

Qoqazi take on Wihdat today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Amman — Five teams remain in contention for the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield title as the other five Premier League teams were knocked out during the past week's matches.

Newcomers Al Qoqazi take on oldtimers Al Wihdat Monday. The winner of the match will face Al Ramtha in the semifinal round. The other semifinal pits Al Hussein against Kufroum Wednesday.

The Shield is reserved for Premier League teams only and is the second of four annual competitions organised by the JSF. Al Faisali already clinched the first title of the season when they beat Al Wihdat in the Cup Winners' Cup, the opening match of the soccer season which was held May 1 grouping the Jordan Cup and League champions.

Teams participating in the Shield competition had been divided into two groups:

- Group 1 : Faisali, Wihdat, Qadissieb, Ramtha, Qoqazi.

- Group 2 : Hussein, Kufroum, Abli, Shabab Al Hussein, Jazireh.

Al Qoqazi scored the biggest upset of the competition when they scored a 2-1 win over Al Faisali. The latter enlisted mostly substitute players with 9 key strikers nursing injuries following the Arab Cup Winners' Cup which was concluded here Wednesday. Al Faisali finished second in that tournament.

In other Shield matches Kufroum upset Al Jazireh and Al Ahli 4-2. Al Ramtha overcame Al Qadissieh 3-1 and Al Hussein ousted Shabab Al Hussein 2-1.

Al Wihdat have won the title a record four times, Al Faisali and Al Ramtha three times, Al Jazireh and Amman twice and Al Hussein only once.

Results so far

Kufroum-Ahli	4-2
Ramtha-Qadissieh	3-1
Hussein-Shabab Al Hussein	2-1
Kufroum-Jazireh	4-2
Qoqazi-Faisali	2-1

Novotna captures Madrid Open

MADRID (AP) — Relying on her strong serve and thankful for a day's rest, sixth seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic defeated a scrappy yet tired Magdalena Maleeva Saturday to win the Madrid Open.

Novotna beat Maleeva 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the clay court tune-up tournament for next week's French Open.

With Monica Seles out through injury and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario knocked out in the semifinal, Novotna had a much easier time than expected winning the tournament.

"It couldn't be any better than to win a clay court tournament just before the French Open," said Novotna, who had beaten the Bulgarian Maleeva in two other matches.

Like the Paris tournament, the Madrid Open is played on red clay.

Madrid organisers and Spanish fans had expected the co-world No. 1 Seles to duel national favourite Sanchez Vicario, the world's No. 3 player, in the event's final round.

But Novotna moved to the finals and was able to rest on Friday when Seles was forced to withdraw from the tournament after a recurrence of the same left shoulder injury that forced her to drop out of the tour in February.

Seles, playing in Europe for the first time since being stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg, Germany in 1993, remains doubtful for the French Open that begins on Monday.

Many are cashing in on Baggio fever. One firm is selling 3,000 "Mr. world football" Roberto Baggio souvenir gold cards at 200 yuan each.

Among the 30 companies sponsoring the game, Sichuan Zhiqiang health food company, which is paying 500,000 yuan to launch its new walnut powder drink at the game.

It will select 10 people from the crowd by lottery who will compete in a goal-shooting contest during half time, with the winners getting AC Milan souvenirs and presents from the company.

"We estimate a television audience of at least 10 million in Shanghai and neighbouring provinces," said Zhiqiang sales manager Jin Song. "We Chinese think a food product helps the part of the body it resembles — the walnut is like the brain."

Shanghai gripped by Baggio fever

SHANGHAI (R) — Fans mobbed Italian soccer superstar Roberto Baggio as he arrived in Shanghai ahead of Tuesday's game against China's national champions Shenhua, but match organisers want the World Cup hero to keep a low profile.

"We will have to restrict his activities in Shanghai," said one of the match organisers. "Even if he wore dark glasses, he would be recognised. We cannot allow the possibility that he will get injured before the game."

Baggio, wearing a baseball hat backwards at a chaotic news conference late on Saturday after his arrival at Shanghai Airport, promised a better performance than in Seoul, where his side AC Milan lost 2-3 to the South Korean national team on Friday.

"We had just arrived in Asia and had not had time to adjust," he said, referring to Seoul, the first stop in AC Milan's Asian tour. "I promise you a very exciting game on Tuesday."

A crowd of 28,000 and a nationwide television audience of tens of millions will watch the game between AC Milan and Shenhua at the team's Hongkou Stadium.

"We have had a very warm welcome, even at the airport and the hotel," Baggio, told the news conference.

Tickets for Tuesday's match cost 30-100 yuan (\$4-\$12) and are expected to fetch several times more on the black market.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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Neither vulnerable. North deals

NORTH
♠ 10 8 4 2
♥ Q J 4
♦ K 10 5
♣ A Q J 8

EAST
♠ J 9 7 3
♥ 9 8 5
♦ 4
♣ K 10 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A 9
♥ A K 10 7 6 3 2
♦ 6 3
♣ 8 2

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 17 3♣ Pass
Pass Pass 4♣ Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Study this diagram, then decide how you would play the hand at duplicate bridge after West leads the ace of diamonds and continues with the queen. Would you adopt a different approach at rubber bridge?

With a sound opening bid facing a partner who had opened, South brushed aside West's interference and bid game in hearts. West attacked with the ace of diamonds and continued with the queen, covered by the king and ruffed by East. Declarer tried the finesse when East returned a spade, but was out of luck. Eventually, declarer was forced to concede a club to the king to end up down one.

South's play was correct only at

duplicate. The heart game would succeed if West started with only six diamonds, or if either black suit finesse were to succeed. The possibility of scoring one or two overtricks was simply too great to be ignored.

At rubber bridge, however, declarer could have virtually insured the contract at the cost of a paltry overtrick. Did you spot the winning play?

Declarer should refuse to cover the queen of diamonds at trick two. Since declarer can afford to lose two diamond tricks and a club, it is more important to keep East off lead than try to collect a diamond trick. If East ruffs to shift to a spade, the king of diamonds is established for a black-out discard. If East discards, West can do no better than play a club, forcing South to finesse the jack to maintain communications with dummy. Although that loses, declarer can rise with the ace of spades on East's unexpected return, draw trumps and shift the queen of spades on one of dummy's high winners.

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Angels Dodgers' second baseman Delino DeShields jumps over Montreal Expos' Cliff Floyd after tagging him out at second base on a fielders choice hit by Expos' Shane Andrews during second inning action at Olympic Stadium in Montreal, May 25 (Reuters photo)

Dodgers beat struggling Expos

MONTREAL (R) — Billy Ashley hit a three-run triple in the first inning and Mike Piazza crushed a two-run homer in the fifth to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 5-3 victory over the struggling Montreal Expos Saturday.

Piazza drew a walk off Raul Mondesi (2-3) with two out in the first and Eric Karros singled him to third. Raul Mondesi walked to load the bases before Ashley drove a triple off the wall in right-center to make it 3-0.

The Expos narrowed the gap with single runs in the second and third before Piazza launched his 13th homer with one out in the fifth for a 5-2 advantage. Piazza went 3-for-3 with a walk with two runs scored.

"I was fortunate and patient up at the plate," Piazza said. "I got a pitch to hit that I could drive," he said of the homer. "In that situation I'm just trying to keep the ball in the air and trying to stay out of a double play and keep the rally going."

Ramon Martinez (3-0) remained perfect in five starts this season after allowing three runs — two earned — and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings. He is 9-0 in his last 15 starts.

Mark Guthrie and Chan Ho Park combined for 1 2/3 scoreless innings and Todd Worrell worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his 13th save. The Dodgers have won eight of their last 11 contests.

Montreal has lost eight of its last 10 games and has fallen 2 1/2 games behind first-place Atlanta in the National League East.

"We've been giving up too many early-inning runs and right now we don't have the offense to offset that," Expos manager Muehleisen said.

"There are things that we are missing and others that we are not doing right now. We're missing (David) Segui's bat in the lineup, that's a big thing."

In Pittsburgh, Denny Neagle allowed two runs over seven innings while Mike Cummins and Jay Bell each had two hits and two RBIs to lead the Pirates to a 6-2 win over the Atlanta Braves, ending their five-game losing streak.

Neagle (6-2) allowed eight hits, walked one and matched his career-best with 10 strikeouts.

Steve Avery (5-4) allowed six runs and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings as the Braves lost for just the second time in eight games. Jeff Blauser homered for Atlanta.

At Florida, Andy Benes snapped a personal seven-game losing streak with a four-hitter as the St. Louis Cardinals blanked the Marlins 5-0 for their fifth straight win.

Benes (2-7) struck out seven and did not walk a batter. He did not allow a runner to reach second base.

Pat Rapp (3-5) allowed four runs and eight hits in four innings as the Marlins

Van Almsick misses out on 2nd Olympic event

BRAUNSCHWEIG, Germany (R) — European champion Franziska Van Almsick on Saturday failed to make the German Olympic swimming team in the 400 metres freestyle, leaving herself just one chance to race an individual event in Atlanta.

Van Almsick, who picked up two silver and two bronze medals on her spectacular Olympic debut four years ago, could manage only third place in the 400 metres behind Olympic champion Dagmar Hase and Kerstin Kielgass.

All three former East Germans were inside the German Olympic qualifying standard but only two from one nation can compete in an event in Atlanta.

"Hase's four minutes 9.51 seconds was the best time in the world this year."

Kielgass, the European 200 freestyle champion, overtook Van Almsick on the final length to take second place in 4:10.49, with the 18-year-old Berliner third in 4:11.39.

Van Almsick won the European title in 4:08.37 in Vienna last August.

Van Almsick had already missed the Olympic qualifying standard in dead-heat for second place behind Sandra Voelker over 100 metres freestyle on Friday.

Van Almsick, Germany's most popular swimmer and winner of 11 European titles, dissolved in tears as she rushed away from the

podium. "She went off much too fast. I don't think she was going to make it," her trainer Dieter Lindemann said.

Van Almsick remained odds-on to qualify in the 200 metres freestyle, her favourite event and the one in which she is reigning world champion and world record holder, although she faced a stiff challenge from Kielgass.

At the age of only 14 at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics Van Almsick gained silver medals in the 200 freestyle and 4x100 medley relay and bronze in the 100 freestyle and 4x100 freestyle relay.

She won both the 100 and 400 freestyle at the 1995 European Championships but misjudged her heat in the 200 event and failed to qualify for that final.

Van Almsick was resented after a similar misjudgement in the 200 freestyle heats at the 1994 Rome World Championships when Hase sacrificed her place in the final. Van Almsick went on to break the world record in the final and become world champion.

Victory on Saturday must have been double sweet for Hase after her sacrifice in Rome. She was jubilant over a performance which promised every chance of a successful defence of the title she won in Barcelona.

"My motivation is Atlanta. I wanted the chance of one more Olympics," Hase said.

Zelezny breaks world record in Olympic boost

JENA, Germany (R) — World and Olympic champion Jan Zelezny smashed his own javelin world record with a throw of 98.48 metres on Saturday at the Olympic meeting in this Eastern German town.

The distance bettered the mark of 95.66 metres he set in Sheffield, England, on August 29, 1993. It was the third time the 29-year-old Czech had extended his record since he first claimed it in 1987.

Zelezny had loquered about the 10,000 marks (\$6,500) bonus for a world record before starting the event and quit the competition after achieving the mark with his third throw.

"I knew what I was capable of. Now I want to throw 100 metres," he said.

The threat may strike fear



Atletico de Madrid players celebrate their victory after winning the first division soccer Spanish League on May 25 after beating Valencia 2-0 (Reuters photo)

Atletico de Madrid win 1st league title in 19 years

MADRID (AP) — Atletico de Madrid, almost relegated last season, brought an end to a 19-year league title drought Saturday on defeating Albacete 2-0 to win the Spanish first division championship.

The result gave Atletico its first ever "double" following the team's Spanish King's Cup victory last month against Barcelona.

Atletico won its final game of the season on goals from Argentine striker Diego Simeone in the 14th minute and Kiko Narvaez in the 31st.

"We've been leaders, virtually the whole season, we deserved it," said a tearful club chairman Jesus Gil Y Gil.

It was Atletico's ninth league title since the club was founded in 1903.

"This is for all those people up there," said Kiko pointing to the cheering thousands of fans waving red and white flags in the packed Vicente Calderon stadium.

The win ended a spectacular first season for Atletico, under Serbian coach Radomir Antic with 87 points from 26 wins, nine draws and just seven defeats. It was also the side to have the least number of goals — 32 — scored against it.

Last season, the side came dangerously close to being relegated to the second division.

Thousands of Atletico fans singing and drinking sparkling wine packed the streets in and around the Neptuno Fountain in central Madrid after the game to celebrate.

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INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES AT UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN
(JCB)

- The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has requested the Development & Reconstruction Department to prepare and submit tenders for the supply of equipment to the new Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Jordan in Amman. The tenders will be opened on Wednesday beginning May 23, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of the Development & Reconstruction Department.
- THE RESPECTIVE PURCHASERS, NAMELY: University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan, and subject being taught in the Faculty of Educational Sciences of UoJ to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment to be supplied to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the faculty.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the Tendering Department at the University of Jordan in Amman between hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday May 18, 1996.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained from the above referred office upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the University of Jordan. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent amount of Jordanian dinars as follows:
 - For delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per lot.
 - For delivery by local mail to local bidders by courier service JD 25,000 per lot plus JD 50 for all lots.
 - For delivery to overseas bidders by courier service JD 25 per lot plus JD 50 for all lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual lot. Contracts will be awarded on a lot (by lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidder who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidder could be awarded more than one contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be at ten o'clock July 22, 1996. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the bid price and of duration of 120 days.

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12 News

Serbs expelling Muslims from Bosnian town

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb authorities are expelling Muslims from their homes in the northern town of Teslic and giving the homes to Serbs who left Sarajevo earlier this year, a Bosnian official said Sunday.

Adil Znanovic, the Muslim mayor in exile of Teslic, told Bosnian radio that the expelled Muslim families from homes in Teslic to settle Serbs who chose to leave districts of Sarajevo that were given back to the Muslim authorities under the Dayton peace treaty.

The radio also said a group of 5,000 Bosnian Muslims had gathered recently to stop 200 Muslims entering the town to revisit homes from which they were expelled during the Bosnian war.

Nearly 7,000 Muslims in Teslic have tried to return to the town in recent weeks but have been prevented, the radio said.

The Bosnian Serbs, who in 1992 launched the Bosnian war to carve out a separate homeland in Bosnia, have ever since systematically refused to allow refugees to return to their former homes as called under the Dayton peace treaty signed in Paris in December.

No independent confirmation of the report of expulsions from Teslic was immediately available Sunday.

Karadzic on 'low profile'

In Belgrade, local media quoted a top Bosnian Serb

official as saying that political leader Radovan Karadzic would stay out of public view in the future.

Asked about the appointment of a Serb envoy for international contacts, Nikola Koljevic indicated Mr. Karadzic would keep a low profile from now on.

"He will not speak out, he will not be on that (public) stage," Mr. Koljevic, one of Mr. Karadzic's "vice-presidents," told Kragujevac radio in Serbia.

Mr. Koljevic did not say whether Mr. Karadzic would actually step down as Bosnian Serb "president" and be made no mention of the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague, which has indicted Mr. Karadzic.

Western powers say Mr. Karadzic must go, as required under the Dayton accord, and face trial on war crimes charges.

After Mr. Karadzic delegated some duties this month to another "vice president," hardliner Biljana Plavsic, international mediator Carl Bildt initially believed the move signalled the beginning of Mr. Karadzic's political demise.

Bosnian Serb media denied Mr. Karadzic had agreed to stay out of the spotlight but Mr. Koljevic's comments indicated otherwise.

Mr. Koljevic said he hoped the international community would not consider reimposing sanctions on rump Yugoslavia.

Mestiri resigns as U.N. envoy for Afghan peace

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — After nearly two years of crisscrossing war-torn Afghanistan to meet feuding factional leaders, the United Nations special envoy is resigning without a peace agreement being tried so hard to broker, his assistant said on Sunday.

Former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri resigned as the U.N.'s special envoy to Afghanistan for medical reasons, said his spokesman. He did not specify those reasons.

The gruelling task of travelling in Afghanistan, a country demolished by 17 years of war, was a strain on the 65-year-old Mestiri. Kabul officials and independent sources said Sunday week-long battles between Afghan government forces and the rival Taliban militia have left hundreds of casualties including at least 80 killed.

Meanwhile, the frontlines were said to be quiet Sunday after days of fierce fighting in which both sides used heavy weapons.

Defence Ministry officials said government forces had killed 70 Taliban fighters and wounded 100 others, while the Taliban on the other hand killed 30 government soldiers and wounded 50.

First witness testifies in 'baby-for-sale' case

AMMAN (AFP) — A Sri Lankan consulate employee testified here Sunday that the building had been set up for a "baby-for-sale" scam where infants were sold for about \$8,000 each, court officials said.

The woman was the first witness in the criminal trial of three employees at the Sri Lankan consulate in Amman accused of buying and selling about 35 babies for a total of \$250,000 since 1991.

The witness said a special room had been set aside in the consulate for pregnant Sri Lankan women working in Jordan who wanted to sell their babies.

She said that a Netherlands couple paid \$8,000 for one baby sold by the former consul, Tawfiq Abu Khajil, who is accused of being at the centre of the "baby-for-sale" scandal.

He pleaded not guilty in court on Tuesday.

The scandal broke in March after police intercepted a Netherlands couple

lying near Band-e-Ghazi, 25 kilometres southeast of Kabul.

The officials put the government losses at 10 dead and 50 wounded, while independent sources said the Taliban suffered "a lot of casualties."

A Taliban spokesman in Quetta, Pakistan, rejected the government reports of militia losses as "baseless."

Mufti Masoom said the "combined forces" of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and former Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar "failed" to dislodge the Taliban from their positions despite "five successive air and ground attacks."

He said the Rabbani-Hekmatyar forces had sustained 50 deaths and many more injuries in the fighting over the past several days. "Two enemy tanks were destroyed and they fled leaving behind their dead and wounded," the Taliban spokesman said.

Mr. Masoom said that after advancing to Band-e-Ghazi earlier in the week the Taliban troops staged a "tactical retreat" to their previous line.

He said fighting also erupted in Ghazni province as government forces launched an offensive there Saturday. He claimed that the attack was foiled and that eight pro-Rabbani soldiers were killed and 50 captured.

"about to fly back home with an illegally adopted Sri Lankan."

Judicial sources said a Sri Lankan co-defendant, who stands accused of selling her baby, also denied the charges.

A third defendant, the consul's Lebanese secretary, Andrea Alfred Bustani, is being tried in absentia, accused of helping him sell the illegitimate babies of Sri Lankan house maids to European couples.

Mr. Abu Khajil is accused of "trafficking in babies, falsifying official documents and illegal possession of firearms."

The trial is being held under 1929 Ottoman anti-slavery legislation which carries a penalty of three years in jail.

The consul, a 57-year-old Jordanian businessman, was arrested in mid-March and hospitalised with heart trouble after questioning.

Despite his denial, Colombo has already sacked Mr. Abu Khajil.

Jordanian industrial exhibition is opened

By Mervat Sawadeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a bid to restore Jordan's access to Gulf markets lost during the Gulf war and also to allow Jordanian exports to new markets, 150 manufacturers are participating in a Jordanian industrial exhibition, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Sunday.

In his opening address, Mr. Kabariti stressed that developing the industrial sector was the answer to Jordan's economic problems of poverty and unemployment.

He said focusing on quality products and proper promotion for Jordanian industries "are the basis on which local industrialists can build relations with Arab markets and open these markets for their products."

Mr. Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman

Chamber of Industry, said, the industrial sector accounted for 19 per cent of the country's gross national product in 1995 and that it currently employs more than 150,000 people of Jordan's labour force.

The exhibition, which will last for one week, is attended by more than 150 representatives from 15 Arab countries, including a 65-member Saudi delegation, the first to visit Jordan since 1990.

Participants in the exhibition said they were hopeful that the event will give them the opportunity to promote their products in Arab countries, namely Gulf states.

"We are trying to promote our products among the Arab businessmen attending this fair. There is a big potential in the Arab markets and we are optimistic," said Sami Khurma of Rum Metal Manufacturing Company.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, accompanied by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and other officials, listens to a briefing by Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan during tour an industrial exhibition that the prime minister opened on Sunday (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cairo to host debate on peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the Egyptian Solidarity committee will later this year organise an open debate on the Arab-Israeli peace process with the objective of reaching a common Arab view on the process, a joint statement by the two organisations said Monday. Ali Um Leil, secretary of the Arab Thought Forum, and Ahmad Hamrouh, president of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee, said in the press release, that politicians and intellectual representing different schools of thought will be invited to the debate which will be held in Cairo on Sept. 3. "There is no doubt that there is great differences between the stands of Arab countries and political and cultural trends in them towards the peace process," said the statement. It is time that this issue was addressed in an open debate in light of the impact the Arab-Israeli peace will have cultural, economic and political future of the Arab World, said the statement, noting that the peace process has led to a number of agreements and faced a few setbacks in the five years that have elapsed since the launching of the Madrid peace conference.

Mine blast kills Bangladeshi in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A Bangladeshi shepherd was blown up after straying across a mine in the Kuwaiti desert last week, bringing to four the number of Bangladeshi shepherds who have died in mine accidents this year, a diplomat said on Sunday. "I have received information that another Bangladeshi was killed by a mine explosion," A.T. Ismail, first secretary at the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait, told Reuters by telephone. Mr. Ismail said he did not have the name or age of the shepherd, blown up in Al Abdali farming area north of Kuwait City. He said eight Bangladeshi shepherds died by mines in 1995. "Their contractors say they are hired as househelp, but Kuwaiti employers make them work as shepherds after they arrive in Kuwait. This is a violation of the (labour law)," he said. Hundreds of weapons and tens of thousands of mines were left in the desert after the 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait. Many explosives have been cleared, but experts say wind-blown sands make it difficult to ensure any area is fully safe.

Belly-dancer steals bracelet during dance

CAIRO (AFP) — A belly-dancer at an Egyptian wedding who stole a bracelet from the bride was arrested thanks to a video filmed of the celebrations, the daily Al-Wafd reported. The parents of the couple called the police and stopped guests leaving when the bride realised the bracelet, a present from her groom, had disappeared during the celebrations in the western Imbaba district of Cairo. Police watched the wedding video and plainly saw the dancer slip off the bracelet as she danced with the bride. No wedding in Egypt would be complete without a belly-dancer, who earns between \$100 to \$3,000 for her performance.

Iraqi gets life in prison for espionage

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — An Iraqi was condemned to life in prison for spying on U.S. and Kuwaiti troops on behalf of President Saddam Hussein's government, the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said Sunday. Nadhim Fakher Al Kanani, 28, was found guilty of "infiltrating Kuwait to collect information about U.S. and Kuwaiti troops stationed on the border with Iraq in 1994, on behalf of Iraqi intelligence," Kanani said he infiltrated Kuwait to evade the death penalty the Iraqi authorities had imposed on him. His lawyer, Abdul Karim Jassem Haidar, said he would appeal the verdict. Since Kuwait was liberated from Iraqi occupation in the 1991 Gulf war, several hundred people, mainly Iraqis and stateless Arabs have been condemned for collaborating or spying for Iraq.

Israeli payback for attacks sparks protest

KIRYAT SHEMONA (AFP) — Hundreds clashed with police Sunday as residents of this northern town protested government offers of compensation for losses caused by Hizbollah rocket attacks. Police intervened when demonstrators burned tires and tried to blockade streets in a drive to force authorities to increase promised compensation payments. No injuries or arrests were reported. Hundreds of houses and businesses were damaged last month by Hizbollah rockets fired during Israel's offensive against the Iranian-backed Lebanese guerrillas. The vast majority of Kiryat Shmona's 22,000 residents were evacuated during the April 11-27 conflict and the government promised them compensation both for property damage and lost income. The relief was due to take the form of cash payments and tax breaks, but residents complained that the funds were insufficient and too slow in coming.

Moroccan Islamists merge with party

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan Muslim fundamentalist group decided to merge with the centre-right Movement Populaire Democratique et Constitutionnel (MPDC) party, an Islamist leader said on Sunday. "We decided to join the MPDC party in a move aimed at introducing a new blood and restructure one of the country's well-established parties," Abdullah Benkiran, chief of Al Islah Wal Tajdid movement (reform and renewal), told Reuters. A moderate fundamentalist movement, Al Islah Wal Tajdid has been tolerated by the authorities since 1980 after Mr. Benkiran broke away with the outlawed radical Mr. Shabibi Al Islamiya (Islamic Youth). "After several disappointing demands to local authorities for a legal status, we finally decided to join the MPDC," Mr. Benkiran said.

Saudi business team begins visit aimed at increased economic ties

AMMAN (Petra) — A 65-member Saudi Arabian delegation on Sunday started a several day visit to Jordan for talks with the government and business community to boost trade between Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

In a statement upon arrival at the head of the delegation, Abdul Rahman Ali Al Jaris, said there vast opportunities for economic cooperation between the two countries. The delegation's visit, which came at the invitation of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, represented clear evidence of Saudi Arabia's willingness to maintain this cooperation, he said.

"We are seeking an increase in the volume of trade between Jordan and Saudi

Arabia and we welcome an increase off Jordanian products in Saudi markets because they are of good quality and can compete with similar products from other countries," said Mr. Jaris.

The delegation accompanying Mr. Jaris represents Saudi Arabia's major companies specialising in industry, trade, agriculture, mining and tourism.

Mr. Jaris said the delegation's meeting with the Jordanian businessmen was a good chance to exchange views on joint projects, the delegation will particularly discuss the establishment of a Jordanian-Saudi holding firm to carry out different projects in the two countries, he said.

He said that the new economic legislation in Jordan would contribute to further attracting capital from abroad.

The chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Haidar Murad, who received the delegation at the airport, said Jordan seeks to increase foreign investments in Jordan and increasing trade between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Trade between the two countries last year reached JD 102 million.

Hani Khalifeh, Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Saudi embassy staff in Amman were at the airport to welcome the Saudi delegation.

French bells toll for slain monks

PARIS (Agencies) — Bells in all 40,000 French churches tolled on Sunday as the nation mourned seven French Trappist monks murdered by Algerian guerrillas in mysterious circumstances.

As the huge bells of Paris' Medieval Notre-Dame Cathedral rang the slow, lugubrious death toll, Archbishop Jean-Marie Lustiger lit seven candles to mark the monks' resurrection to the Roman Catholic religion's eternal life.

"These men gave their lives as a source of life," he said.

The candles were lit a month ago by Christian, Muslim and Jewish clerics to keep alive hopes that the monks, abducted two months ago from their monastery near Medea south of Algiers, would be freed.

Archbishop Lustiger had blown them out one by one on Thursday, after Morocco's Radio Meditteranee International reported a statement in

the name of Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) kidnappers saying the monks' throats were slit last Thursday after France refused to negotiate a release of prisoners.

Algeria, first reacting 48 hours after the announcement, has said it could not confirm or deny that the monks were dead and that a hunt for the kidnappers continued.

French authorities have said the GIA statement was genuine.

The killings have shocked France and not since the death of Pope John Paul I in 1978 and Charles de Gaulle in 1970 have the bells of all French churches tolled.

Conflicting reports tried to shed light on the circumstances of the killing. A French expert on terrorism, Roland Jacquard, said it was virtually certain that some were killed last month.

Questioning the government's claim that it did not

negotiate with the GIA, the weekly Journal du Dimanche quoted a Trappist monk, Father Gerard, as saying an unnamed French government humanitarian envoy secretly visited the monks about 12 days ago.

"He was said to have brought them holy communion wafers and medicine for the oldest, Father Lue, an 82-year-old doctor who was tired and depressed."

"There was no French government envoy, and we are not aware of any such initiative which is totally improbable," a spokesman for the foreign ministry said.

An Islamic newsletter, Al Ansar, has said it would recount in its next issue what happened between the monks' abduction and their deaths. It would also publish a letter allegedly sent by French authorities to the GIA, as well as disclosures to what it said were France's efforts to doublecross the GIA.

French observers arrive in Yemen

SANAA (Agencies) — French military observers arrived here overnight to monitor an accord signed between Yemen and Eritrea over a chain of strategic, disputed Red Sea islands, a Yemeni official said.

The delegation headed by a senior French officer is "charged with ensuring the two sides abstain from any activity or military movement in line with article five of the accord," he told AFP.

After a stay in Sanaa, the delegation was to head to Asmara.

Under the accord signed Tuesday in Paris the two countries agreed to submit their dispute a court of international arbitration which is to be set up before the autumn.

The court will be made up of five mediators, two appointed by Yemen, two by Eritrea, who will choose a fifth as chairman.

A dispute over sovereignty of the Hanish archipelago at the mouth of the Red Sea erupted into violence in December when Eritrean forces captured the largest island of Hanish Al Kabir.

Former Egypt navy officer jailed for spying for Israel

CAIRO (Agencies) — A former Egyptian navy officer has been sentenced to hard labour for life after being found guilty of spying for Israel, court officials said Sunday.

It marked the second time in two months that an Egyptian has been convicted of spying for the Jewish state.

Abdul Malek Abdul Moneim Ali Hamed, 48, a former navy sergeant, was accused of providing military information to Israel, which threatened Egypt's political, economic and military situation, state prosecutors said.

Mr. Hamed was also charged with providing information about the Shawa military base, near his village, Nawassa Al Gheir, on the Nile delta, where hundreds of residents have left to work in Israel.

Mr. Hamed, who was arrested in March, said he was innocent and described the verdict as "unjust." He participated in the Israeli-Arab war of 1973 before retiring in 1978.

The public prosecutor had asked for the death penalty against Mr. Hamed.

formation on other Egyptian sailors.

Mr. Hamed has acknowledged receiving money but said he did so only to give himself time to contact Egyptian authorities. He said he did not provide Israel any information.

Life in prison in Egypt is 25 years. The court also fined Mr. Hamed 6,735 pounds, the equivalent of about \$2,000.

Although Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, relations remain cold, and Hamed's case was the second espionage trial involving Israel in two months.

In April, another Egyptian was also found guilty of spying for Israel and sentenced to a life of hard labour by a court in the Sinai peninsula.

Meanwhile, an Israeli army officer was arrested at the Egyptian border post of Tab'a in possession of two cartridges containing 60 bullets, police said.

The bullets were found in the officer's car, and he apparently forgot to remove them before entering Egypt. Egyptian authorities sent him back to Israel, police said.

Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1979, putting an end to three decades of war.

The Yeti is awaiting tourists in China

BEIJING (AFP) — The fabled Yeti will become a major tourist attraction in China next year, whether its existence is proven or not, the official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday. A promotion for Chinese and foreign travel agencies that focuses on the beast is to be launched Monday — a prelude to a series of activities that will be organised starting this year in the Shennongjia region, in central China's Hubei province. The legend of the Yeti has persisted over centuries, but the existence of the half-man, half-ape has never been proven. On the basis of numerous testimonies collected in recent years, a team of Chinese scientists last year undertook an expedition to find the creature, without success to date. The only solid proof of the Yeti's appearances have been thousands of giant footprints — the largest measuring 40 centimetres — found in the region, as well as reddish brown hairs collected by some of the few villagers that inhabit the mountainous zone. Estimates based on the footprints have the Yeti weighing 300 kilograms and standing around 2.2 metres. The Shennongjia region is known for its beautiful natural scenery and rich flora. A park dedicated to the Yeti, a natural museum and a botanical garden have just opened.

Communist museum rents to capitalist firms

BEIJING (R) — China's Soviet-style military museum, dedicated to preserving the legacy of the 1949 Communist revolution, is leasing space for commercial use, the China Daily business weekly said Sunday. The People's Revolutionary and Military Museum in Beijing was leasing 5,000 square metres of its 40,000 square metre exhibition space to try to raise money for refurbishment, it quoted museum curator and People's Liberation Army Major-General Yuan Wei as saying. The museum, which charges a 5 yuan (\$0.60) entrance fee, has already leased floor-space to companies selling computers, pagers and office furniture and would also rent display areas to foreign commercial exhibitors, the newspaper said. Built in 1959 during an era of socialist fraternity between China and the Soviet Union, the museum is one of 10 major Soviet-inspired buildings in Beijing and displays exhibitions on the history of China's Communist revolution and military culture, it said. Many government institutions set up under Stalinist-style central planning and funding are strapped for cash as Beijing plunges ahead with market-oriented reforms begun in 1978.

Tibet moves cement plant out of ancient ruins

BEIJING (R) — Chinese officials have ordered a cement plant to move out of the ruins of a Tibetan village where archeologists have found signs of human habitation dating back 4,600 years, the Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday. The plant was built among the ruins in Karub village in eastern Tibet's Qamdo County in the mid-1960s, when Chairman Mao Tse-tong launched his radical ultra-leftist 1966-76 Cultural Revolution that aimed partly at wiping out China's feudal past. The Qamdo Prefectural Commissioner's Office decided to move the plant, saying no industrial facility should occupy valuable cultural sites, Xinhua said.